...ext Week, February 23rd, 1921.

Provide for Yourself and Your Family by taking out an Endowment with the CITY LIFE Assurance Co., Ltd., 6, Paul Street, FINSBURY, E.C.2.

Managing Director: Leonard Aldridge.

Write for particulars now.

You Should Economise! by using a "J.B." Pen.—For Coupon See page 19.

JOHN BULL

VOL. XLIX. No. 762. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1921. TWOPENCE.

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

Edited by HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

MORRIS'S RUSSIAN BLEND Cigarettes possess the delicate flavour and sweet fragrance that make Russian Cigarettes unique. 1/- for 20 of all Tobacconists.

B. Morris & Sons, Ltd., London, E.

SICK CHILDREN OFFICIALLY BIRCHED

IF RHEUMATIC DISSOLVE THIS IN YOUR MORNING TEA

Then watch the pains, aches, swellings, stiffness and other misery disappear. They simply HAVE to go, says ALICE LANDLES, certified nurse.

RHEUMATISM can be caused in but one way. That is by acids and impurities in the blood. It is a universally admitted and easily provable fact that various organic or other ills and weaknesses are directly due to toxins, germs, acids, or other impurities. For instance, uric acid causes gout, sciatica, neuritis, etc., whereas stomach acids cause dyspepsia. In fact, most other ailments—ranging all the way from tuberculosis to a common cold—have definitely been traced to blood impurities, germs and toxins of one kind or another. Chemical analysis and microscopic examination of the blood prove this beyond the possibility of doubt or argument, as any standard medical work will explain in detail.

Of course, various conditions, such as exposure to cold and dampness, or committing certain errors of diet, can make rheumatism worse, but the primary cause always remains the same. Therefore, trying to get rid of rheumatism without ridding your blood and system of the acidulous impurities which directly cause this physical calamity, is exactly like trying to get rid of smoke without putting out the fire. Pain-causing and kidney-irritating uric acid is no different from any other acid in that *it must be neutralised by an alkaline liquid.* Nothing else can have just the same effect, this being an elementary principle of chemistry, of course. It naturally follows that to dissolve, neutralise and wash out the rheumatic acids the liquids you drink must contain the necessary alkaline elements to be absorbed into the blood and act upon the acids.

IF YOUR KIDNEYS ONLY HAD WINDOWS.

Then the cause of Backache, Rheumatism, Gout, Sciatica, Lumbago, Neuritis, Bright's Disease, Dropsy, Diabetes, etc., would be no mystery, and you would know what to do.

If you could only look into the kidneys and see the appalling amount of damage inflicted upon the delicate cells by uric acid and other impurities! About a quart of blood passes through every twenty seconds, and healthy kidneys normally filter out of this and excrete during every twenty-four hours more than an ounce of uric acid, lime, urate of soda, and various other mineral impurities in solution. The trouble is that these acids, mineral salts, etc., accumulate rapidly, and *do not stay in solution* when weakened or deranged kidneys stop filtering them out regularly. Instead of remaining melted and in liquid form *they deposit as tiny sharp crystals.* These grind about in the blood vessels, greatly irritate the kidneys, and lodge in joints or tissues, also in certain nerve sheaths, particularly those of the back and legs. As already stated, blood analysis and the microscope prove this conclusively. A still better way to prove it is by drinking a medicinal water containing strongly alkaline elements, which are soon absorbed into the blood and quickly dissolve, neutralise and wash the acids and impurities out through the kidneys. The pains will naturally have to disappear with the acids and toxins which cause them. Non-alkaline preparations cannot possibly produce the same results because uric acid, like other acids, is neutralised only by an alkaline substance. A level teaspoonful or less of the refined Alkia Saltrates compound (powder form) dissolved in a tumbler of hot water (or better still in your tea) and taken before breakfast is all you need, and it is pleasant to drink, having no bitter, sour, salty or other objectionable taste. Any good chemist can supply a few ounces of this compound at very little cost.

SPECIAL NOTE.—We are informed by Saltrates, Ltd. (Dept. 60 K.), 214, Great Portland Street, London, W., who prepare a very high grade of Alkia Saltrates, that during the next ten days they are willing, as an advertising offer, to supply anyone interested in the product, with a regular 1s. 9d. *size packet free if applicant cares to send eightpence for postage, packing, etc.*

£1 1s. PRIZES will be awarded to readers sending best alternative 2-line verses for any of the articles shown below. One prize each week for each article. Any number of attempts may be sent, but each must be written on a separate postcard.

Similar Competitions in *Passing Show* and *London Mail*, in which *John Bull* readers may compete.

FAMILIAR PACKAGES and Trade Marks

54 GUINEA PRIZES.

The Winning Couplets in No. 4 Competition are used below. Winners' names at bottom of page.

All verses become the property of "John Bull." Decision of Advertisement Manager to be final. Address: Familiar Packages No. 7, Advt. Dept., "John Bull," Long Acre, London, W.C.

Latest date for this week: Feb. 28.

ANZORA

CREAM and VIOLA
Both Master the Hair
1/6 & 2/6.

From all Chemists & Hairdressers.

The controller of the "parting" is the man who takes the chair;
The controller of the "parting" is Anzora on the hair.

Anzora Beta-Naphthol Soap Powdered—the finest Shampoo.

If children from an early age to Nourish are subject to Decay,
They'll enjoy complete immunity from qualms to the dentists.

Oh! Mackintosh's Toffee is known the whole world o'er,
And if's eaters are like "Oliver," they always "ask for more."

She said: "That's lovely butter, the best I've ever seen.
Her mistake was quite excusable — 'twas Brito Margarine.

BRITO MARGARINE
The Nation's Choice.

DRI-PED
REG'D

The Super Leather Sole.

"Economise!"—we hear the cry—"if you would save the nation."
Use Dri-ped soles and then at least you've got a good foundation.

See the "DRI-PED" diamond, stamped in purple every few inches on each sole. There is no counterpart "DRI-PED."

Creamola is enjoyed by all. It's very plain to see.
It leaves a smile on every face in every family.

CREAMOLA
The Queen of Custards.

The Sun's somewhat fitful—the cloud often wins—
But "Casso" is constant—it's "Dependable" in tins.

"Kiwi"

Any shade of Brown, Dark or Light.

The Quality Boot Polish

When Polish you require, make Kiwi your selection.
Your choice will prove wherever used a lasting lustre reflection.

Bovril's a drink and a food combined,
Enriching the blood and refreshing the mind

Richness in flavour and cheapness in price very seldom are found to unite,
But this rare combination exists without doubt in a "pennyworth" of Toffee De-light.

To Shopkeepers.—Window-Dressing Competition.
In addition to the prizes already being offered in this competition, the Proprietors of Winner Records are offering the following special prizes for display of their goods:—
1st Prize £10
2 Prizes of £5 each.
5 " £2 " "
25 " £1 " "

Your Gramophone may be the best, and yet you're not delighted,
But put a "Winner" Record on, and then wrong is righted.

Messrs. Nestlé will award an extra Guinea to the winner of this couplet.

IDEAL MILK

6½d. Per Tin.

1/- Per Large Tin.

MILK, while MILK, and nothing but MILK, from those richer in cream than ordinary milk.

REFUSE IMITATIONS.

With Ideal Milk there always is this positive security—
A bright richness in the cream and creaminess of flavour.

Messrs. Nestlé will award an extra Guinea to the winner of this couplet.

NESTLÉ'S GUARANTEE

Cash Prices 8½d. & 1/4½ Per Tin.

Keep a tin upon the shelf.
And have a "dairy" to yourself.

If unable to obtain locally send cd. to Messrs. Burton Bros. & Co., Town St. Mills, Armley, Leeds, when a pair of Fox Laces with address of nearest Agent will be sent post free.

A reputation often hangs just by a thread," we're told:
That's why the makers put their best in every Fox Lace sold.

Blame yourself, don't blame your servants
If your lighting bill is high.
Start yourself and make a saving.
Clarnico Lamp and Label buy.

As Ambrosia was to the gods long ago,
So to us are the Caramels called Clarnico.

"I'll have to leave it off, it is fading"—thus you sigh.
Don't do it. Just renew it with a little Drummer Dye.

DRUMMER DYES
Halve the Dress Bill.

RESULT OF No. 5 COMPETITION.

ANZORA.
A. W. Dekkins, Cromer.
BRITO.
William Stewart, Wishaw.
BOVRIL.
Avenue Temple, Stoke Newington, N.16.
CASSO.
Mrs. Hanford, Chadwell Heath.
CLARNICO.
John E. Pope, Nottingham.
COSMOS.
L. W. Burridge, London, N.W.3.
CREAMOLA.
Miss D. Prescot, Waverstree.
DRI-PED.
W. Smiff, Leeds.
DRUMMER DYES.
L. W. Burridge, London, N.W.3.
EUCRYL.
L. Weightman, Golders Green, N.W.
FOX LACES.
G. H. Hoff, Eastbourne.
IDEAL MILK.
Charles Westbrook, Plumstead.
KIWI.
William A. Watson, Partick.
MACKINTOSH.
Mrs. Creasey, Belmont.
NESTLÉ'S.
T. J. H. Pitman, Thornton Heath.
SHARP'S.
H. B. Smith, Holloway, N. 19.
TURNWRIGHT'S.
A. Roberts, Cambridge.
WINNER RECORDS.
Leslie J. Hill, Hove.

SHOPKEEPERS, See page 5.

Most wholesome and pure, like all Kreemy confections.
It hasn't a Super-Kreem Toffee leaves sweet recollections

JOHN BULL

"Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war." *Milton.*

The Paper on which the Sun Never Sets.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant: Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

"For forms of government let fools contest; Whate'er is best administered is best.'—*Pope.*

Vol. XXIX. No. 769. Week ending Saturday, February 26th, 1921. Twopence.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[*The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.*]

Farrow's Bank.

At the time of going to press we have not learnt the view of the Judge as to what course the Official Receiver should adopt in regard to our offer for the assets of this concern. By next week, however, we hope that things will have assumed a definite shape.

The By-Elections.

Although we are not running any candidates in connection with the existing vacancies, we shall shortly be bringing out of our "stable" one or two very smart performers. Several fresh vacancies are imminent, and some of the constituencies are "just our handwriting."

Still Fooling Us.

On the whole, we were well pleased to be able to carry forty Members with us into the Lobby in support of our Amendment to the Address on the subject of Indemnities and Punishments. The Premier's speech was quite unworthy of the occasion, and showed that Ministers have so far learnt nothing since the Armistice and are still being fooled by the Huns.

Those German Criminals.

So at last the Government has made up its mind to insist upon the early trial of the seven representative criminals, whose cases they have agreed to submit to the Leipzig Court. We are taking odds about an acquittal.

Conniving at Sedition.

The Prime Minister does not approve of our suggestion that offences of the kind for which Mr. Malone, M.P., is now undergoing a term of imprisonment should automatically vacate a Member's seat in the House. So now we know.

Lord Robert.

Lord Robert Cecil, with characteristic shrewdness, lost no time in capturing the corner seat on the Front Opposition Bench previously occupied by Mr. Crooks. He is thus our immediate neighbour, and we shall doubtless enjoy many opportunities for whispered conversations about the League of Nations and other fantasies of political dreamland.

Sir Henry Dalziel.

Yet another universally popular Member has left the House. "Dal," as he was affectionately called, was one of the few personalities in the assembly. Self-educated and self-made, his natural shrewdness and deep knowledge of human nature soon won him a prominent place in its councils—and perhaps no private Member was ever more in the secrets of the Government of the day. His resignation leaves a gap which it will be difficult to fill.

Lucky for Lloyd George.

Thus Mr. *Punch* in its last week's issue: "Numbers of the Cardiganshire voters understand nothing but Welsh. It was a clever idea to have a by-election in a language Mr. Bottomley can't speak." That accounts for it.

Early Piety.

Several readers in Dover write complaining that the Vicar of St. Bartholomew's is in the habit of ringing his church bells very early in the morning—sometimes soon after six o'clock. A clear case of early picty.

Marriage Law Reform.

Almost every mail brings us appeals to support a measure to legalise marriage with a deceased husband's brother. In these days of sex equality it is an anomaly that there should be any distinction in the rights of husbands and wives regarding re-marriage.

YOU MAY WIN
OUR FOOTBALL
£1,500
Fill up the Free Coupon on page iii. of Cover.

No Address.

We have received a long letter from Mr. Eamon De Valera, calling our attention to various aspects of the Irish problem—but he has thoughtlessly omitted his address!

A Mysterious Crank.

Who is Mr. Champion B. Russell, Chairman of the Grays (Essex) Licensing Sessions, who recently warned an applicant for a licence that his cheeks would soon become puffed, his looks absolutely sodden with drink, until at length there came a crash—it might be delirium tremens or a lunatic asylum? Talk about the exercise of "judicial discretion"!

The Public Defender.

Although we were not successful in the ballot for Private Members' Bills, we shall watch carefully for an opportunity of smuggling in that little measure of ours for the establishment of the office of Public Defender. Only the other day, the Rev. Canon Adderley, of St. Paul's, Covent Garden, directed our attention to the case of an ex-soldier, charged with an indecent offence, who, by means of an *alibi*, proved his innocence beyond any question. He has, however, been denuded of all his savings for solicitor's and counsel's fees. This sort of thing is happening every day.

An Apt Anagram.

"Ramsay Macdonald"—"O, my! A damn'd rascal." We use the phrase, of course, in the purely political sense.

Rotting Food.

Stories still reach us of large quantities of flour, mostly stored up in view of the abortive railway strike, rotting in various parts of the country. No wonder Dover gave the Government a warning.

Father Bernard Vaughan's Conversion.

Father Bernard Vaughan used to startle us with his sermons on the Sins of Society. Now we find him writing in a Sunday paper—"We seem to be living in a day when Society is so absorbed in trying to do good to others that there is some danger of its forgetting to become good itself." Can't be so very bad, can it?

The Early Birds.

Arriving at the House of Commons at 7.30 on the morning of the opening day, we found that we had "been beaten a distance" by Cleveland's indefatigable Member, Sir Park Goff, who had turned up at six o'clock, and was entertaining a small group of other Members with some of his inimitable stories. A popular political personage is Park!

A Parliamentary Fragment.

The other day, we picked up from the floor of the House, just near the seat usually occupied by Mr. Sexton, the following poetic effusion, signed "Tatters, M.P.":—

The little Welsh shepherd's lost two of his flock,
But somehow he don't seem to mind 'em;
Though they've strayed from the fold, so at least he's been told,
They have not left a space behind them.

And in the new pasture they've selected to graze
They'll soon find the length of their tether,
For it's crowded by other unfortunate strays,
None of them flocking together.

Though in this strange medley the lost sheep may roam,
Without Party or policy to bind 'em,
Sooner or later they're sure to go home
With their tails hanging down behind them.

What's This?

Is it true that an order has been given by the Egyptian State Railways to Krupps of Essen for nearly £50,000 worth of carriage and wagon tyres—notwithstanding that four British firms were prepared to take the contract at specially low prices, in order to keep the work in this country? But, of course, Egypt is gradually seceding from all connection with the British Empire.

A Silencer for the *Herald*.

The members of the Typographical Association are evidently not impressed by Lansbury's quick way to a new paradise for the workers. Out of a membership of about 28,000, only 6,300 voted for the proposal to invest £1,000 in the *Daily Herald*. We always knew that most working men were sound at heart.

Golden Hill Camp.

On the supposition that we are correctly informed, the Government are still paying rent for the rich grazing land on which Golden Hill Camp, near Pembroke, once stood. The huge cement floors still remain, and instead of paying hundreds of men unemployment doles, there is strong opinion in the district that they should be put on to remove the concrete and so make the land fit to produce food for the nation.

Slaying the Innocents.

The Hereford War Pensions Committee have decided the fate of the unsound baby. In considering what course to take with regard to children born to pensioned men suffering from acute tuberculosis or neurasthenia, the Committee resolved not to issue a treatment grant for such children if their parents have also received a prolonged treatment allowance. In other words, the infants are condemned to death. The inhumanity of such a proposal is so appalling that it defies further comment.

Will it Wash?

What is the game of the Metropolitan Water Board? At present, they are seeking powers to increase their charges by a hundred per cent., yet it was stated at a meeting of the Thames Conservancy Board, from whom the Water Board obtain certain supplies, that the figures of 1920 showed that an increase of *fifty per cent.* would be enough to meet any deficiency, without having to make a deficiency rate upon the contributory authorities. We pause for the Water Board's explanation.

Lest We Forget.

We are all friends of the ex-Service men, and the widows and dependents of those who fell in the war, but we are apt to forget the persons who have no tragic credentials, but nevertheless have claims on our clemency. There are industrial and commercial widows, wives of small tradesmen, left behind to struggle for their children with a modest business, handicapped by lack of capital. The question of a grant or pension to such civilian widows is one to which women who are rushing into public life might well devote themselves.

A Smithfield Scandal.

"Thanks, I works where they makes it," was the classic answer of the boy who was offered jam at the Sunday School treat, and it contains a profound truth, which also applies to other items of food—meat, for instance. The way in which the carcases are handled at Smithfield Market is said to be positively appalling. They are stacked on the pavement with men smoking and expectorating all round, and left for hours exposed to dust and dirt, without any covering whatever. We understand that such a laxity is unknown in Continental meat markets; but whether it is so or not, there can be no excuse for the scandal in London.

Forgotten—Except on Pay-days!

It is stated that a few relics of the great war remain "comfortably ensconced within the precincts of Fort Charlotte, Lerwick." These consist of a Major R.M.L.I., with a staff of Marines, although no troops have been stationed in Shetland for two years at least. Nobody seems to know why they are there, as they have been forgotten by everybody except the Paymaster. We must certainly ask a question in the House.

Dividends and Delinquents.

We have just had a case brought to our notice in which a girl, on probation, was sent to the "Liverpool Juvenile Reformatory Association, Limited." Having been away a year, the mother wrote to ask if she might come home, receiving a curt refusal without explanation. It would be interesting to know whether the girl's conduct, or her cash value, influenced the Association's refusal. Anyhow, a system whereby the delinquencies of naughty children are the means of providing cheap labour to a Limited Liability Company needs some explanation.

ANOTHER WONDERFUL CARICATURE BY THE "MYSTERY ARTIST"
—this time of Lord Robert Cecil—
appears on the cover of this week's "Passing Show." Buy a copy to-day.

Exploited Warriors.

Indications are not wanting that ex-soldiers out of employment are being exploited by firms and agencies for the sale of goods from door to door. In respect of stationery, at any rate, much of the poor stuff they are given to sell is enormously over-priced, and the price is only paid out of charity. One packet, charged 1s., contains some common notepaper and envelopes, with three picture postcards, "Printed in Prussia," and published by Hugo Lang & Co., Liverpool. What an occupation for heroes!

Trust Houses and Tips.

We hear of a case at Nottingham of an ex-soldier with a six years' service, who worked at a "Trust House," from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., with three hours off, for the princely stipend of 14s. weekly and his "keep." Tips averaged about 10s. weekly, so that even with this addition the actual money wage upon which he had to keep his home and family was disgracefully small. The time cannot be far distant when the public will refuse to patronise concerns where low wages and sweated hours are the lot of those who serve.

Intemperance in Figures.

Canon Durell, when he went to the Newington Brewster Sessions to put the temperance case, received a well-deserved rebuff. He said there had been 29,075 convictions for drunkenness in 1918; 57,948 in 1919; and 71,772 in ten months of 1920. The Chairman asked if these were the figures for Newington only. After consulting his supporters, the Canon said he *thought* they were for the whole of the County of London. Then when a police inspector suggested that they were the figures for the whole country, the dear divine said with a smile," Oh! perhaps they are!" People who go about quoting vague statistics ought to be sent to a home for inebriates!

Bumper Bonuses.

If the war is over, bonuses are not, for in the case of each of eighty-one employees of the Kensington Borough Council the bonus paid is higher than the wage, while one official whose salary is £420 a year, receives an annual bonus of £357! If this isn't enough, someone should take the hat round to all the ratepayers in the Borough.

Mannix's Man.

Quite rightly, the Treasurer's Committee of Edinburgh City Council have refused to let the Usher Hall for a welcome meeting to that arch archbishop, the Australian anti-British Mannix. The leading applicant on his behalf was one H. T. Clarke, a retired Surveyor of Customs, in receipt of a pension—no doubt of substantial amount—from the hated British Government!

Kultur and Cookery.

Although General Smuts has obtained a working majority, we shall still have to watch South Africa. Here is an advertisement culled from the *Johannesburg Star*; "Female cook for hotel, German preferred." Is this paving the way for Hun sovereignty in South Africa?—for Athenæus affirmed that cooks were the first kings of the earth; and we are inclined to agree with him.

Distance Lends Enchantment.

An optimistic gentleman is F. Baxter, who advertises jobs in France, from Lyon Villeurbanne. Applicants receive a circular produced by a hand duplicating machine, in which the precious Baxter claims he is "in touch with many vacancies such as you desire daily." All you have to do is send him 10s, and then—keep on looking for a job in England. The funny part is that people who would not trust their neighbour's one-eyed tom-cat with an unopened can of milk will send cash for such a nothing-for-money proposition as the foregoing.

Talkless Talkers.

Some time ago one of our readers complained that Mr. G. B. Chapman, of High Street, Birmingham, was advertising and selling "talking parrots" whose most characteristic feature was that they didn't talk. Another reader, living in Bristol, now sends us a long exchange of letters he has had with Mr. Chapman on a talkless "talker" he bought from him. He has had the bird for six months, he says, and it hasn't spoken a word. Mr. Chapman had better alter the wording of his advertisements, which are so deplorably untrue as to place him under obligation to return money obtained on the strength of them.

Gush, Gloves and Greed.

Many a man thinks he won the war by stopping at home, making more or less modest profits, and cheering long and loud while others went to fight and fall. A man who was "fit" and one who wasn't lived in the townlet of Martock, Somerset, well known for its industry of fabric gloves. The returned fighter applied to a stay-at-home for a job, and he was given two days' work at the princely pay of 9d. per hour! As a cutter of fabric gloves is a skilled artisan, he kicked at the pay, and was kicked out! We suppose that fabric gloves, which are a poor imitation of a skin, are best manufactured by a poor imitation of a man.

Justice—but Not Mercy.

"I had to do something to get food," said William Alfred Hall, a labourer, of Old Buckingham, when he was charged before the East Harling (Norfolk) Magistrates with poaching. He wore the 1914 star, and his Army certificate showed that he was discharged with a good character. Notwithstanding the fact that he had been out of work five months and had a wife and five children to keep, he was fined 40s. or a month. No doubt the Magistrates administered justice, but surely this was a case for a very nominal punishment!

Fishy.

Is there anything more than ordinarily fishy about fish which keeps it so dear? A Torquay resident states that soles are sold locally at 2s. 6d. a pound, with "other fish dear in proportion," though he is only six miles from Brixham, which sends out hundreds of smacks. He is told, he says, that the "McFisheries" monopoly have collared all the fishmongers, but retain their names on the signboards, and his suggestion is that prices are kept up and controlled by them to make enormous profits. The question is whether the balance sheet of McFisheries bears out his theory.

Cowen, Glasgow.

One Cowen, of 27, Jamaica, Glasgow, had better make haste to alter his business methods. By an advertisement in the local paper, he offers "Visiting cases, fibre, value to 37s. 6d., soiled, clearing at 3s. 6d." A reader sent the money and received a case made of 1/16th inch millboard, with a cloth handle, value perhaps 10d. When Cowen was rewarded by a nasty letter from the purchaser, he made the excuse that a mistake had been made by one of his staff, and sent back the money without even asking for the return of the case. If Cowen wants to live in Scotland, he will certainly have to be more careful.

What We Might Expect.

Before the Durham City Bench, George Brown, an ex-soldier, protested against being ejected by Major H. Peele, who is selling the house to the County Council. "I have searched in vain for another dwelling," he said. "With a spade and two sheets of corrugated iron, in France, one could build a palace for himself, but you cannot do it here for a wife and children." Brown, who asked if his family could be accommodated at the Workhouse, was told to apply to the Relieving Officer! We don't wonder he replied scathingly, "As a pauper! It's good enough for a man who has done his bit!" The position is truly shameful.

Slim Terms and Fat Prospects.

Jobs are few and far between at present, we know, but we should scarcely expect a rush to grab the chance for a "Gentleman with tact and ability, about 40, salary £2 10s., prospects," as at present-day values this works out at about only a pound a week. A reader replied to the advertisers, the Lancashire Commercial Agency, Manchester. These philanthropists demanded a fee of 17s. 6d., "before anything could transpire," and if appointed 5 per cent. on the first year's salary. In fact, 17s. 6d. for passing on his name, £6 10s. if *his* qualifications, not *theirs*, secured this enormous salary. The Agency, at any rate, seems to have "prospects"!

The Double Line.

When the bonus was given to railwaymen to compensate them for the extra cost of living, the same amount was given to a single man as to a married man with a wife and kiddies dependent on his earnings. A West Hartlepool reader claims that, when the wage reductions are made, "some leniency ought to be shown to married men with families." That does seem fair to outsiders. We doubt, however, whether railwaymen themselves will so regard it.

Petersfield Patriots.

For a post as rate collector the Petersfield District Council had before them four men: Mr. Lewis, superintending clerk and office accountant, Shrewsbury, 4 years' war service; Mr. Boniface, Petersfield, three' years war service, assistant to the resigning rate collector; Mr. E. Lord, three years' war service, a Bury collector; and Mr. Wilkins, Petersfield, no war service, but secretary of the Foresters Friendly Society. Two members voted against Mr. Wilkins, and seven for him!

"Bawbees for the Boche."

One of our readers is "greatly surprised to hear" from us "that a British ship has gone to Hamburg for repairs," owing to labour troubles in this country. He says that in April last he brought a steamer from Hamburg to the Tyne for repairs, the reason being that Hamburg repairs were too costly, took too long to materialise, and were entirely one-sided as to conditions. This looks as if the times have changed, and we have changed with them. "We should adopt the same spirit regarding the Huns as we did during the war," insists the writer. Unfortunately we don't.

Sales and "Sells."

An interesting and plausible ramp is now being successfully worked by concerns styling themselves "Commission Salesmen." A suave gent hands in a circular, in which is set out bargains such as "Large bath towels (soiled), 6s. doz.; Jap silk at 6s. a dozen yards." Now, large batn towels, however soiled, at 6d. a-piece, and Jap silk at 6d. a yard, are very attractive propositions, and it is quite natural that intending purchasers should also become easy victims to "£4 4s. costumes at £2 2s., and handsome fur sets at quarter value." As the circular says "subject to being in stock and unsold," the towels and the silk are regretfully omitted, but the shoddy costume and the rabbit "sets" never seem to be exhausted.

Won't Listen to the Band.

Last autumn the Bedford Eisteddfod issued invitations to competitors in various classes of music, both vocal and instrumental. For the string band class, the Luton Mandolin Band entered, paid the entrance fee, bought the music and refused lucrative engagements in order to be able to devote all their time to practice for the contest. After three months they were notified that a mandolin band was not a "string band," and their entrance fee was returned. It was useless to protest that mandolins have strings, and that anyway the band would abide by the decision of the judges. The Luton Mandolin Band has a Continental reputation, and the only other string band which entered knows it. This, however, is not sufficient reason for breaking a perfectly good contract.

Lies at Large.

That Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington, whose husband was shot in Ireland, is a woman, is scarcely a reason why she should be allowed to go about this country telling lies. The other day she was at Swansea, and there she is reported as saying, "Who are these Black and Tans? Men recruited from the gaols of England, and other wrecks of the war!" That the men are recruited from British gaols is as untrue as untruth can possibly be.

Ambassadors of Commerce.

We have always had a soft spot in our heart for the "Knights of the Road." We therefore recommend the Commercial Travellers' Benevolent Institution as a charity worthy of support, and hope that the Festival to be held at the Hotel Cecil on March 4th, which H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has promised to grace with his presence, will be a highly successful function.

Catch Weights.

If weights came under the law of profiteering, Messrs. Chaney and Co., scale and weights manufacturers, Dover, would probably be in a bad way. Recently they asked a prospective customer 25s. each for two 56-lb. weights, less 2½ per cent. discount. The price demanded for the same kind of weights at an ironmonger's shop in the town was only 14s. a pair, all the purchaser having to pay extra being 6d. for stamping. Messrs. Chaney must be laying up much treasure on earth.

Stores Wages Again.

As the Army and Navy Stores are paying fat dividends, there is no excuse for their not paying adequate staff wages. The firemen get less than the Union rate—£3 2s. 6d. for a 54-hour week, instead of £4 10s. for 48 hours. "There are here," writes an ex-Service man employed there, who has been all through the war, "acting firemen who were never in the war receiving more money per week than I am." According to Mr. Workman, the Secretary of the Stores, nothing can be done until the return from India of Major Grosvenor, the Staff Controller. So everything may come to him who waits—and can live.

Who Will Help?

A pathetic plea from a Bethnal Green reader emphasises the unhappy plight of the "unwanted child." Yet, in this case "unwanted" is scarcely an accurate term, for the two-year-old mite is loved by her mother, and has already earned the devotion of foster parents, who, alas! are compelled to part with her through illness and misfortune—unless, of course, some generous person comes forward with such an offer of assistance as will allow the baby to keep its home, and its guardians the joy they have found in caring for its welfare. Otherwise it will be the workhouse and the badge of pauperism. It is bad enough to know that in such cases "the woman pays." Worse still when it is the innocent child.

Biggest Ever.

This week we are making a record "Bullets" offer. The first prize is increased to one thousand guineas, the second to two hundred guineas, and the third to one hundred guineas. These are the biggest "Bullets" prizes ever offered. In addition, many extra valuable awards must be won. Do not fail to take advantage of such an exceptional prize-list.

AN INHUMAN EVICTION.

HEARTLESS OUTRAGE ON VETERAN HERO OF THE EMPIRE'S WARS.

THE poet, in moving terms, has lamented "Man's inhumanity to man," and never was this sad propensity of human nature more bitterly exemplified than in the chapter of rural history we are about to relate. In the neighbourhood of Reigate, Surrey, a familiar figure for years past has been a veteran ex-soldier known locally as "Whistlepipe Joe"—this nickname having reference to the harmless means by which, during the last year or two, Mr. Albert Newport Smith has contrived, with the aid of a generous public, to add a few shillings weekly to his old-age pension. From all we can learn, Smith is a lovable character, generally respected, and bearing his eighty-two years with a cheerfulness and buoyancy reminiscent of his soldiering days. The worst that can be said about him is that he is "eccentric," meaning that in certain unimportant details of daily life he is apt to travel a little outside the beaten path of convention. Against his character there has been no complaint of any kind. Bereft of relatives, and possessed of no means but the State pension, the vigorous old man has never had recourse to charity or parish relief. It is nearly forty years since Smith left the Army, but its fine traditions are in his blood, as was shown in 1914, when, though well beyond the allotted span, he actually offered himself for service against the Huns.

Wreckers at Work.

The cruel story of Albert Smith's fate may be swiftly told. Ten years ago, on quitting the regular service of a local farmer, the old fellow having no wife to share his retirement, and none but his own wishes to consult, built himself a rough but serviceable dwelling of stone, wood and canvas, on a piece of ground adjacent to the Reigate Road, and there established himself with a degree of comfort that was remarkable. Presumably he could show no title deeds to the site, nor is there any record of negotiations on the matter; but there could have been no opposition on the part of the owner of the land, seeing that for a whole decade Smith enjoyed undisturbed possession of his little home. But for his occupation the plot would have remained vacant, and it may well have occurred to the owner that no bad purpose was served in affording house room to a worthy old man. By the side of the cottage or hut was a small allotment, sedulously cultivated by the tenant himself, and here, again, though no agreement can be traced, there must have been a tacit approval.

Desolation and Despair.

All this will no doubt seem very irregular and unconventional, and it may at once be conceded that the management of the Old Dorking Lime Works, to whom the land had been leased, were entirely within their rights in ordering Smith to move. It was the mode of eviction that was so cruel and heartless. One afternoon, a few weeks ago, while the old man had gone to the post office to draw his pension, a representative of the Works, accompanied by two labourers and a policeman, visited the hut, and on returning to the humble quarters that for ten years past had been his home Smith was confronted with a spectacle which nearly broke his heart. Armed with the necessary tools, the workmen were savagely attacking the simple structure that had cost the old man many hours of devoted labour to build, and, in spite of frantic protest from the aged tenant, the cruel work was carried out to the bitter end. At its close the octogenarian ex-soldier was left stranded and homeless to face the chills of a February night. Kindly neighbours found him in the early morning lying prostrate amid the *debris*, bitter tears coursing down his cheeks. Even so the work of destruction was not complete. Not content with the proceeding which, while harsh and brutal, may have been regarded as a stern vindication of legal principle, the wreckers proceeded to set fire to the contents of the hut. True, there was no costly furniture to feed the flames, but such as they were the few simple adjuncts of his secluded life were dear to the old man's heart, and it may be imagined with what bitter feelings he saw them consumed to ashes on the site of his ruined dwelling. Very little escaped the flames. Even his beloved whistlepipe was so charred and twisted as to be of no further use. As the old man staggered away from the scene, after hours spent in fruitless contemplation of the havoc wrought, it seemed that there was no path open to him save that which led to the workhouse. Happily, neighbourly kindness averted this fate, and with that indomitable spirit which is his leading characteristic, Smith has found another corner where, under conditions of greater security, he has once more built himself a hermit dwelling.

No Lesson from the War?

It is sad to think that at this time of day, and after all we had hoped from the war in the shape of a broader spirit of humanity and goodwill, it should be possible for an old Army veteran to be treated in this way. It may be said that the aged hermit was obstinate, and had no clear perception of legal rights. The answer is that for ten years he had lived in his hut, and that throughout that period the law was not set in motion. Only when all other expedients had failed should resort have been had to cruel and heartless violence. If the authors of this shameful piece of work can sleep with easy consciences, we do not envy them. Quite easily they might have had a poor old man's death at their door. Happily, he has recovered from the shock, being still hale and vigorous. It will be our pleasure to furnish him with a new whistlepipe, upon which we trust he may make merry for years to come.

WITH A ROD OF IRON.

HARSH MEASURES OF A LONDON MAGISTRATE.

Last November a young married man with one child was charged before Mr. Waddy, at Tower Bridge, with stealing from the house where he was living. He was remanded for a week. His father did not offer bail, thinking that, as his son was somewhat simple-minded and very easily led, a week in Brixton Prison might teach him a lesson. At the next hearing the father and a friend offered to refund the stolen money and to be responsible for the defendant's behaviour; whereupon Mr. Waddy put him on probation for three months, when he was ordered to appear again. The money was duly refunded, but when the three months' probation had expired, and the defendant stood once more before the Bench, he was asked how much of it he had repaid. Having been out of work from the time of his offence, he had been able to reduce his debt by 30s. only, but his father, knowing the circumstances, was perfectly satisfied with this. Mr. Waddy, however, was not, and sentenced the astonished youth to 14 days' hard labour. We do not dispute the Magistrate's power to inflict this sentence, but we question the moral justice of it. If the young fellow deserved a fortnight's hard labour, he deserved it in the first instance, and it should have been imposed then. The only thing was that, owing to unemployment, he had been able to repay his father only 30s. of the money advanced on his behalf. We hold no brief for theft; but we do hold that even the thief is entitled to a measure of human justice. Possibly Mr. Waddy laboured under some misapprehension.

A TWO-FACED DEPARTMENT.

ANOTHER BLUNDER BY STUPID OFFICIALS.

In our issue of Jan. 22nd, we dealt with the case of a clerk who relied on the ruling of the Inspector of Naval Ordnance, Woolwich, regarding a Civil Service Examination for temporary clerks, that he was "not aware the examination was compulsory." Accordingly the man did not sit, and was sacked for not sitting. Our exposure of this disgraceful treatment has brought to light another case. This man served with the Royal Field Artillery for four years, and was wounded three times and badly gassed. He joined the Department as clerk in 1919, and no complaints were entered against his work. This man decided to sit, put in an application, but was refused for that particular examination as being too late. He then notified his intention to apply for inclusion in the next, but in the meantime was put on notice for discharge, the reason being that the official "understood he was not going to sit"! The astonished clerk replied that, so far from never intending to sit, he had actually applied to do so. He received no reply, but the sentence of discharge was commuted to two months on probation, with the grim threat that if his work was unsatisfactorily reported on he would have to go. The Department apparently includes one incompetent ass who does not know under what conditions his own clerks retain employment; another who sacks men for things he hears in his sleep; and another who intimidates clerks, whose work was all right in 1919, by putting them on probation in 1921. And other Government offices are similarly afflicted.

THE CHAMPION (INCOG.).

'Tis about a dreadful dragon,
How he wasted far and wide,
Leaving scarce a single rag on
Anybody's shivering hide,
So outrageously he ravaged, eating up the countryside.

From his home address at Chequers
He would issue like a blight;
All the population's peckers
He reduced to pulp at sight;
For his maw was simply monstrous and he ate with all his might.

So he gorged and gorged unsated
Till they said, "This Thing Must Go!"
And at last his doom was dated
And the papers let us know
They had made complete arrangements for the valedictory blow.

There, in type that mocked denial,
Anyone who ran could read
All about the bloody trial,
How the programme would proceed—
But they never even mentioned who would do the glorious deed.

No one seemed to know the answer,
Who it was—his style and rank—
Who would ride upon his prancer
(Or perhaps inside a tank)
And exterminate the waster with a puncture in the flank.

None has named *The Times'* selected,
Yet he's not *incog.* to me;
In rehearsal I've suspected
'Tis no other knight than HE—
Yes, beneath that lowered vizor lurks the bold

Horatio B. ("O. S." in *Punch*.)

WATCH WIMBLEDON.

CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AGAINST COUNCILLORS.

For twelve months or more there have been strong suspicions in the minds of a number of Wimbledon ratepayers that their interests were not being studied as closely as they might have been by members of the Borough Council. Ugly rumours of highly profitable but illegitimate trading with the Council by certain councillors at the cost of the ratepayers have been rife, and have given rise to a great deal of heated and acrimonious discussion in the Borough. Improper, not to say illegal, transactions engaged in by Municipal officials were hinted at well over a year ago by Councillor Stone, who at that time, however, was not in a position to formulate his charges. Since then, ably assisted by Councillors Foster and Bell, he has made an exhaustive examination of the Borough accounts, and at the quarterly meeting of the Council held on 2nd February he appeared with such damning evidence that the Council as a whole—much as many of them may have wished to burke the Inquiry demanded—had no alternative but to adjourn the discussion to the next meeting.

MUNICIPAL MORALS.

What Councillor Stone had to say, and he stated he was prepared to prove, amounted to this: that for some years past certain members of the Borough Council had taken advantage of their official position to purchase goods and hire labour from departments of the Municipality at cost, if not less than cost, price. The details he gave of such transactions, extracted from the books of the Borough, were illuminating as showing to what an extent it is possible for ratepayers to be at the mercy of their representatives who shed their professed concern for the public interest like a garment immediately their election has made their position secure for a term. A few examples will make clear to our readers the sort of dealings with which Councillor Stone charges certain of his fellow-members. At a time when "middlings" were 2½d. a pound, at the shops, the Council were buying them in quantities at 14s. a cwt.—1½d. a pound. This was good business from the ratepayers' point of view. But what sort of business can we call it when we find a member of the Council buying a cwt. of middlings from that body for 8s. 5d.—less than 1d. a pound, and substantially less than the Council paid for them in the first instance? This, we are willing to admit, was a small matter, but the principle involved goes to the root of municipal life. One further example of the alleged corruption Councillor Stone is "up against" must suffice. He found from the books that a Councillor had purchased from the Works Department cement at 6s. 10d. and 13s. 8d. per bag, when the current retail prices were 12s. 6d. and 15s. 6d. per bag respectively.

THE PRINCIPLE INVOLVED.

We cannot spare the space to give further examples of the innumerable similar instances of improper trading alleged by Councillor Stone and his two colleagues—not even to relate the story of the sale of 1 cwt. of pit sand to a councillor for the handsome sum of 3d.! In every case the principle involved is the same. For any man to take advantage of the position he has been elected to by the suffrages of his fellow citizens, to the extent of making a financial profit to their detriment as ratepayers, is, to put it very mildly, an abuse of confidence which cannot too severely be condemned. Men capable of such conduct besmirch the boasted purity of our public life. Once found out, it should be made impossible for them to aspire again to municipal honours. It will be interesting to see whether the ratepayers of Wimbledon endorse our view at the next Municipal elections. London suburban residents are difficult to arouse on local matters, but when they are something usually happens.

ASYLUM FODDER.

THE MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACT AT WORK.

To be certified for admission to an institution for mental defectives, and at the same time to hold two doctors' certificates declaring her to be mentally and physically fit, is the Gilbertian experience of a girl of 17 at present earning her living in the City to the entire satisfaction of her employers. The Asylums and Mental Deficiency Department of the London County Council is responsible for this distressing and ridiculous situation. The girl in question, who lives with her parents at Bethnal Green, was admittedly very backward as a child, and was frequently ill. Consequently her educational progress was not so rapid as that of a normally healthy child. Until the age of 14 years she attended the Globe Road Special School, when the mother received instructions to present her daughter for examination before the L.C.C. doctor at Savoy Street, Strand, who certified that the child was well able to continue her studies at school. The mother, however, kept her at home for two years, when she was again instructed to attend the doctor, who this time made no comment, beyond asking what the child was doing. In October last her mother secured her a situation at a London restaurant, where she is giving complete satisfaction. Suddenly, like a bolt from the blue, descends upon the astonished mother a stereotyped letter from the L.C.C. Asylums and Mental Deficiency Department, to the effect that her daughter "is subject to be dealt with under the Mental Deficiency Act, and steps are being taken for her admission to the certified institution known as Stoke Park Colony, Stapleton, near Bristol." A form for the parents' consent to the girl's removal was enclosed. Without delay, the mother took her daughter to two highly-qualified local doctors, who both certified her as mentally and physically fit. As a result, the mother has very properly refused to sign the "form of consent." The next move is with the L.C.C. If they insist on the girl's incarceration in an asylum for mental defectives, we shall have something further to say on the matter.

PRINTER'S PIE.

(Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of each item published. Envelopes must be marked "Pie.")

"CIRCUIT MONTHLY":—"Rev. J. Alexander Findlay . . . will give an address on 'THE ONE THING NEEDFUL.' COLLECTION TO DEFRAY EXPENSES."

"KILKENNY PEOPLE":—"A letter was read . . . advising the Corporation that the TOWN CLERK requires immediate attention, *i.e.*, THOROUGH OVERHAUL AND RENEWAL OF WORN PARTS."

"HARROW OBSERVER" (advertisement):—"Buy Observer time-tables. ALMOST reliable."

"GLASGOW EVENING TIMES.":—"Unemployment. The Situation in Glasgow. . . . There would be ENCOURAGEMENT to people who DESIRED TO AVOID WORK."

"ABERDEEN EVENING EXPRESS" (advertisement):—"PARLOUR AND BEDROOM to let for FOOTBALL MATCH."

"PICTURE SHOW":—"Not even the RUSTLE of a feminine skirt was anywhere IN SIGHT."

"AYRSHIRE POST" (advertisement):—"Bull . . . Milk Record of Dam, 961 gallons in 40 weeks. MILK RECORD of SIRE, 1003 gallons in 41 weeks."

"LOUTH AND NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ADVERTISER" (advertisement):—"All PERSONS found GRAZING on the Frontages of the undersigned . . . will be prosecuted."

"John Bull's" Great Offer to Traders.

£400

in Prizes for Window-Dressing.

IF you can dress a window you stand as good a chance as anyone of winning one of the big money prizes which "John Bull" is offering for window displays in connection with the "Familiar Packages" page in this issue (page ii of cover).

In this fascinating competition the prizes will be given to traders with original ideas—the small shop has just the same opportunity as the large one.

There are no tiresome conditions—just a simple window display for a short time, and a prize may be yours.

Fill in the coupon below, and full particulars of "John Bull's" great offer to traders will be sent by return.

Time is now getting short. By delaying longer you may be losing the first prize of £200.

CUT HERE

To the Manager, "Familiar Packages" Window-Dressing Competition, (Dept. J.B.7) Advertisement Department, 90, Long Acre, London, W.C. 2.

Please send me full particulars of the "Familiar Packages" Window-Dressing Competition. I am a bona-fide trader and attach my billhead, card or business note-paper.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Business .....

Date.....1921. J.B. 26.2.21

SICK CHILDREN OFFICIALLY BIRCHED.

UNCHECKED USE OF CANE APPROVED BY METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD.

By W. CHARLES PILLEY, *Assistant Editor.*

A RECENT article in this journal, describing the flogging of sick children in institutions controlled by the Metropolitan Asylums Board, has served to open the eyes of the public to a scandal of the first magnitude. It was shown, with detailed evidence of a most revolting kind, that children entrusted to the Board's care on account of tubercular disease, had been so severely punished as still further to endanger their feeble health, the facts in one case having been of such a character as to involve the removal from her post of the matron in charge of the Millfield Asylum, Rustington, Sussex. When the matter was brought to the notice of the Asylums Board, a heated discussion ensued, and a number of members voted in favour of the entire abolition of corporal punishment in the Board's institutions. That this view should not have been unanimously held will be a matter of surprise to most humane persons, who will realise that children under the care of the Board are all in more or less delicate health—many of them, as was the case at the Millfield Institution, suffering from dangerous and exhausting disease.

AN UNREPENTANT BOARD.

My object in returning to the matter now is to call attention to the extraordinary attitude taken up by the Asylums Board at its last meeting, when the question of "flogging sick children" was again brought up for discussion. The matter arose on a simple motion by Mr. W. B. Parker that "the principle of corporal punishment having been approved by the Board, a record of punishment be kept and presented to the Board every half-year." Introducing his resolution, Mr. Parker had several interesting things to say. In the first place, no one was to imagine that he proposed this check on the use of the cane in obedience to "the scandalmongers of the Press." Obviously, the opinions of the newspapers could be a matter of no importance to so august a body as the Metropolitan Asylums Board. As a matter of fact, however, Mr. Parker did feel that in this matter there should be "no secrecy or risk of scandal," and while he apparently did not altogether deprecate the whipping of little invalids, he thought it as well that the Board should know, every six months or so, how many of their charges had been subjected to this form of physical torture. Other members held other views, but one considered that to object to the flogging of sick children was "sloppy, silly sentimentalism," and for his part he would have nothing to do with the publication of punishment records, which would constitute a "sort of rotten Newgate Calendar." Perhaps the most touching statement of all was that of Mr. Mount-Sowerby who, with hand on heart, was heard to declare that children in the homes of the Metropolitan Asylums Board "were ruled by love and kindness." It is to be assumed that Mr. Mount-Sowerby, would consider this a proper description of the treatment meted out to the poor little fellow at the Millfield Asylum who, after punishment for some trivial offence, was found in a condition that appalled the local Inspector of Police, who "was surprised that the N.S.P.C.C. did not take action." It is charitable to suppose that Mr. Mount-Sowerby was speaking in ignorance of the real facts. At the close of the debate the motion calling for a punishment record was heavily defeated, to the accompaniment of further gibes at the Press.

PRESS AND PUBLIC.

It is not at all difficult to understand the temporary dislike of the newspapers evinced by the Board's members. Through the medium of the Press, publicity has been given to an obvious scandal that might otherwise have remained hidden. For the first time, the public are now made aware that the thrashing of sick children in public institutions is part of the established order of things. They see, further, that the majority of the members of the Metropolitan Asylums Board are content that this should be so, and that when resolutions are brought forward condemning the practice or proposing some check to its prevalence, they are heavily defeated. When all this is recorded in the newspapers the anger of the Board's members rises to boiling point. It is apparently considered an impertinence on the part of a newspaper to discuss the disciplinary methods in vogue at institutions supported from public funds and tenanted by children of the ratepayers. Such an attitude is unworthy of serious attention. The situation is one calling for the plainest speech. The facts are clear, and should be made universally known. The regulations of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, in regard to the "discipline" of sick children, specifically authorise caning on the hands or body, and the use of the birch-rod on the bare flesh. I say, deliberately, that the mere existence of these sanctions is a gross and barbarous outrage. In the case of healthy children there would be much to be said against the entrusting of such powers of punishment to teachers or others in authority. And it really passes belief that such a condition of affairs as that obtaining in the Metropolitan Asylums Board's Institutions should so long have escaped criticism and condemnation.

TO END THE SCANDAL.

Unfortunately, the Metropolitan Asylums Board, owing to the peculiarity of its constitution, is not so readily amenable to public opinion as most other statutory bodies. The remedy for this scandal lies in publicity, and it may be considered a hopeful sign that the Board's members are already beginning to show active resentment against the newspapers for dragging the facts to light. It is a matter of satisfaction to us that we should have been first in the field with a full and detailed disclosure of the torture of sick children at the Millfield Asylum. The same thing may be happening to-day in other institutions to which the Board's brutal punishment rules apply. Where the children are in the hands of humane officials all may be well; but, as things are, these defenceless mites, already burdened with ill-health or disease, are wholly at the mercy of any cruel or capricious person armed with the right to flog, which the Board declines to annul.

TRADE UNION AUSTERITY.

POSTMEN AGAINST A STRIKE FUND.

The trouble in the Postmen's Federation over the strike fund, to which we recently referred, is growing rapidly, and there is an ominous muttering of the word "Disruption." The strike fund of the Union of Post-Office workers was decided upon after a ballot of 117,000 of them, of whom as many as 23,000 abstained from voting, and of the others, roughly 48,000 voted for and 35,000 against the fund. These figures are interpreted by the Executive to mean that they are to go full steam ahead. Those who are refusing to pay to the strike fund are threatened with expulsion from the Mutual Benefit Society, to which they have contributed for years. It is a stupid policy. The moderate members are demanding the alteration of Rule 18, under which the Executive maintain that they have the power to expel members from benefits; and as the official organ, *The Post*, admits that it will be possible for them to change the policy at the conference in Edinburgh in May, it would be nothing but common fairness—according to British usage—to refrain meanwhile from refusing to accept contributions to the Benefit Society from opponents of the strike fund scheme.

MARTYRS OF THE K.5.

REMEDY PIGEON-HOLED BY ADMIRALTY.

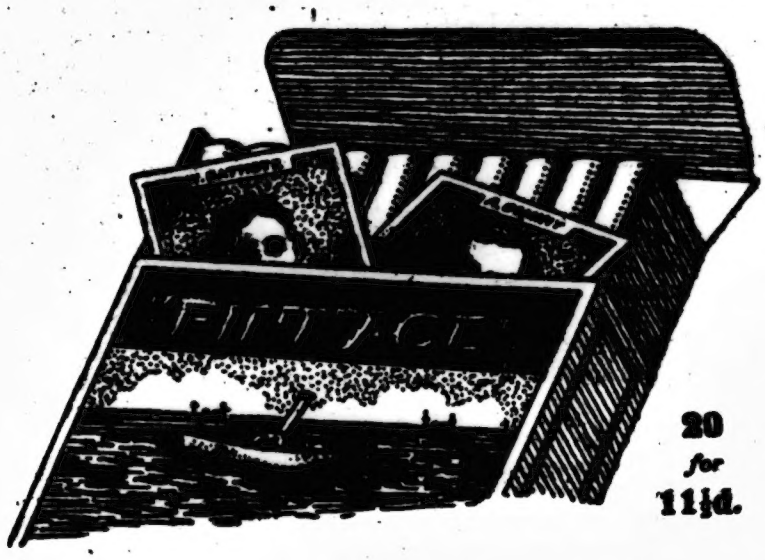
The sinking of Submarine K.5 is now a matter of history. The crew of 56 gallant souls, imprisoned in their steel shell, lie fathoms down, and we perchance shall never know the real cause of their fate. We must know, however, whether this awful catastrophe could not have been avoided. Since 1915 there has been in the hands of the Admiralty a life-saving device which *might* have been of some use in the case of the K.5. We have perused the specification, and while claiming no technical knowledge, have been advised that here is an invention which could have been adapted to a submarine, and the chance of life given to men who deserve it far more than any Admiralty Jack-in-office who ever pigeon-holed a plan. In 1915, however, the Admiralty replied to the inventor that, "My Lords Commissioners have decided not to adopt your invention at the present time." Six years have elapsed. Have they ever tried it, or even thought of it? And now, when 56 of our bravest, who might yet have been with us, have been sacrificed, will they pluck it from the pigeon-hole and consider, at least, the hope which seems to us to lie in the suggestion so long ago offered and ignored?

DIRTY BUSINESS.

A PAWKY SCOTTISH INSURANCE COMPANY.

Twenty-seven years ago a Leeds woman took out life policies for £500 in the Scottish Union and National Insurance Co. "Owing to the war," then only four months old, the directors, in December, 1914, postponed the statement of their profits until the end of the year following that in which peace should be concluded, but allocated, so they alleged, a bonus of 1 per cent. on the sum assured for each full year's premium paid subsequent to December 31st, 1909. The holder of the policy died on January 1st last year, before the conclusion of peace, and her surviving daughter was therefore entitled to £50 bonus. The Company now make wangling excuses to justify their refusal to pay this money, relying doubtless on the fact that a law-suit for its recovery would have to be brought in a Scottish Court, and would involve, for a Yorkshire claimant, legal expenses which she may well hesitate to bear. Law or no law, however, the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company are undoubtedly doing a dirty bit of business—whether due to their poverty or their principles we shall not attempt to guess. Happily, the leading Scottish offices do not resort to subterfuges of this kind.

£900
FOOTBALL PRIZES



20 for 11½d.

EACH Packet of Godfrey Phillips' "PINNACE" *The Quality* Navy Cut Cigarettes contains one or more real photos of one of over 500 of the Leading Football Players, and particulars showing how to win one or more of the following prizes:—3 Prizes of £100 each. 3 Prizes of £50 each. 3 Prizes of £25 each. 15 Prizes of £5 each. 300 Prizes of £1 each.

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NAVY CUT CIGARETTE

10 for 6d. 20 for 11½d.

One Photo. Two Photos.

Every Tobacconist sells Them. Buy a Packet to-day.

WRIGLEY'S
CHEWING GUM
NET SALES CERTIFICATE

£250 in prizes.

I have examined your Company's Books for the year ended December 31st, 1920, and certify that your net sales of Wrigley's Chewing Gum in the United Kingdom during that period (after deducting Returns, Gifts, Pilferage, etc.) amounted to 39,999,504 (thirty-nine million, nine hundred and ninety-nine thousand, five hundred and four) packets.

ALFRED G. MAIN, F.L.A.A.,
Public Accountant and Auditor.

200 consolation prizes.

Why Not Try for One of These Free Prizes?

1st PRIZE - - £100 CASH.

2nd PRIZE £50 CASH 3rd PRIZE £25 CASH
4th PRIZE £20 CASH 5th PRIZE £15 CASH
6th PRIZE £10 CASH 7th PRIZE £5 CASH
25 Prizes of £1 Each and 200 Consolation Prizes.

EVERY 2d. Packet of 6 Bars of WRIGLEY'S 3 FLAVOURS gives you *One Free Entry*—and you can send in as many Entries as you like, providing you pin the wrappers from 6 Bars to each Entry. The prizes will be awarded to the senders of the Estimates nearest to the actual number of packets of WRIGLEY'S 3 FLAVOURS SOLD IN THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH, 1921.

THIS FREE PRIZE COMPETITION CLOSES MARCH 24th, 1921, so why not start sending in your "Estimates" now? NOTE—The estimates wanted are for the 3 months mentioned only. The 39,999,504 PACKETS (as signed Net Sales Certificate above) were sold during the 12 months of the year 1920.

THIS Free Prize Competition affords full opportunity for the exercise of skill and judgment. Look at the Confectionery and other Retailers' Shops now stocking and selling WRIGLEY'S 3 FLAVOURS in such large quantities. Note also the striking advertisements in the Press and judge and Estimate the increase in sales of what-to-day is

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CANDID COMMUNICATIONS.

This space is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties, and, occasionally, Nonentities.

To the Right Hon. Walter Long, P.C., M.P.

DEAR MR. LONG,—It is with sincere regret that I have learnt of your retirement from the office of First Lord of the Admiralty. Knowing, however, as I do the gallant struggle in which you have been engaged for months past against a distressing illness, I cannot be surprised at your decision. Your resignation means a big loss to the Government. Universally respected, and one of the few remaining representatives of the old school of British squires, it will be difficult to replace you, and all we can do in the circumstances is to wish you a speedy recovery to health and an early return to the House of which for so many years past you have been one of the most distinguished and picturesque members. JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Sir Eric Geddes, P.C., M.P., Minister of Transport.

SIR,—I have the honour to direct your attention to the scandalous imposition still practised by the railway companies on season ticket-holders who forget their passes. It is again brought to my notice by a season ticket-holder on the Great Eastern Railway. Briefly, he left his ticket at home, paid the fare, 2s. 8d., and applied for a refund of the money. "Dear Sir," replies an official, referring to your communication of the 27th inst., I have pleasure in enclosing 1s. 8d., being the additional fare paid less 1s. clerical and postage expenses." This 1s. deduction for expenses, in such a case, amounts almost to a barefaced theft. If you, Sir Eric, cannot enable the railway companies to reduce their fares, you might at least insist that they shall improve their morals. Such outrageous exactions are indefensible, and do much to make your Department a by-word amongst British citizens, who have a very clear perception of right and wrong. JOHN BULL.

To Alderman T. H. Jones, Monmouth.

SIR,—For blatant vulgarity of taste, you assuredly are entitled to the whole tin of biscuits. To suggest to the Monmouth Town Council that "public conveniences" might be placed underneath the proposed War Memorial monument in Monnow Street indicates a coarseness of mind and a grossness of sentiment which to me is utterly disgusting. I am aware that there is nothing degrading in the decent performance of the offices of nature, but to associate them even in thought with a War Memorial to our gallant dead exceeds the limits of indelicacy. JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. Plowden Wardlaw, Beckenham.

REVEREND SIR,—You are one of the few parsons who know how to play the game, and I congratulate you upon your victory over some of your puritanical parishioners. Your action in throwing open the rectory grounds to the young men of the parish who want a game of hockey, football, or any other kind of sport on Sunday, is most commendable, and when you said that, after the experience of the last twenty years, the principle of reasonable Sunday games must be conceded to every class in the land, you were echoing what every sensible person knows to be absolutely true. What you might do now is to send a report of your scheme to the London County Council, for many of its old fossils badly want rejuvenating in such matters. JOHN BULL.

To Deemster Callow, Douglas, I.O.M.

SIR,—You recently adjudicated upon the case of a man, earning 34s. weekly, who had lost his right arm in following his calling. The law allowed you to award him 50 per cent. of such earnings, namely 17s. weekly, and little enough for such a loss. You said he could "probably get a job as a caretaker at 20s. to 24s," and you allowed him only 12s. a week, adding that he could at any time apply for a higher award if he got no work. Now the man has a wife and four children—and only a left arm, and 12s. weekly "compensation," with which to support them. If he can get no work, six people have to live on 12s. a week, and out of that save enough to re-open the case. Sir, if you had only some brains you might make a good Deemster. JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. R. Dawson, Vicarage, Westend, Southampton.

DEAR VICAR,—From what you say in the parish magazine, I gather you have been having an epistolary row with the South Stoneham Guardians on the question of whether shell-shock victims should, or should not, be sent for treatment to Poor Law institutions and public asylums. The Guardians think that these are precisely the places where they ought to be treated, on grounds of economy; but the gospel according to the Guardians isn't the gospel according to Dawson—that's so, isn't it? Well, I agree with *you*. British people have a strong antipathy to the workhouse, and these poor, shattered victims of the war cannot help but feel in such a place the poverty of the nation's gratitude. JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Sir Hamar Greenwood, P.C., M.P., Chief Secretary for Ireland.

SIR,—Last October an official of the Ministry of Pensions in Ireland proceeded on a tour of duty. During the execution of this duty he was kidnapped by Sinn Feiners, and detained fifteen days, his clothing and personal property, to the value of £40, being stolen. Application has been made to you, at "The Castle," and to the Irish Office, for compensation for this loss, but the reply is that no liability can be admitted. You send a man on what is to-day a dangerous duty; you cannot even protect him from being kidnapped and robbed, and you disclaim liability for the loss incurred in doing his work. I should not wonder if this is how some Sinn Feiners are made. Anyhow, I am sure you will see that justice is done. JOHN BULL.

To William Atkins, Sirdar Road, Notting Hill, London.

LUCKY MAN,—That charge against you of cruelty ended much more satisfactorily to you than you deserved. The evidence showed that a poor donkey was verminous, weak, and in a half-starved condition, and the Magistrate was not loath to describe it as "a ghastly case." To fine you thirty shillings and costs, however, was a punishment remarkable for its leniency, for if the law were half as inhuman as yourself you would be suffering a penalty that would make you realise what pain you inflicted on that helpless creature. Mind how you treat any other animals that come under your care. JOHN BULL.

To Mr. J. M. Willoughby, late Borough Collector, Buxton.

DEAR SIR,—From what I can perceive, you seem to be doing from fair to middling, if not better. You have retired from the Buxton Corporation with a pension of £5 a week; you have £25 a year as Secretary of the Buxton Technical Education Committee; you and your wife are manager and manageress of a Buxton china shop; and now, out of twelve candidates, one an ex-Service man of excellent qualifications, the Buxton Cavendish High School Governors have appointed you Secretary of the school. Next week I understand it is likely you will be appointed Clerk to the Chalybeate Springs and Resident Inspector of the Crescent; and if there are any other jobs going after that I shouldn't be amazed if you grabbed the lot. JOHN BULL.

In the Barber's Chair - - - - - - - Lord Crawford.

Good arfternoon, sir . . . *Shavin'?* Cert'n'y—but don't look so bloomin' fierce about it. . . . *Wasn't aware you was lookin' fierce?* Well, you was, an' I don't like it. I ain't in the best of 'ealth, ter tell yer the truth. . . . No, no, nothink catchin' . . . but w'en anybody looks fierce at me it gits on me nerves. An' you don't want nothink on yer nerves w'en you're shavin' a bloke. You never knows wot's goin' to 'appen. A feller prefessional o' mine, wot 'ud 'ad a pritty thick time the night before, was shavin' a parson one mornin'—But thet's another story. . . . No, I wasn't on the loose meself larst night, but I ain't altogether the thing. You must excuse me if I scratches meself now and then. . . . It ain't fleas, it's wot the doctors call dermatitis—skin irritation. It catches me in very awkward places now an' then, but chew've gotter scratch, w'erever it is. Thet's w'y I 'aven't gorn to church the last few Sundays. I don't mind goin' to the picshers, becos nobody notices wot chew does there, in the dark. . . . Oh, lor, there it is again, mister! Jew mind givin' me a punch in the back—jest between me shoulder-blades? 'Arder, please! . . . Ah! thet's a relief! It's Chinese flour, thet's wot it is, sir. Dirty muck, full o' weevils. Sevenpence a two-pound loaf I'm payin' now, an' it's nothink more or less then seven penn'orth of itch! I've never 'ad nothink the matter with me skin before. My ole woman 'as always sed she never see a clearer skin then mine. But now I'm spotted like a bloomin' leopard. Thet's w'y I sh'd like to 'ave a word or two with Lord Crawford, wot's boss o' the W'eat Commission. 'E ses Chinese flour ain't responsible for it, but I reckon it is. . . . *You agree with 'im?* Wot do *you* know about it? 'Ave you eaten it? 'Ave you laid awake 'arf the night scratchin' like an' ole 'en on a dung 'eap? . . . Wot, *you're Lord Crawford 'imself?* Then the Lord 'as delivered you into me 'ands, as the Scriptures ses. You're boss 'o the W'eat Commission, an' you're more or less responsible for the quality o' the bread we 'as to eat. I s'pose you don't 'ave to eat bread, bein' one o' the nobs. I s'pose you don't 'ave to git outside of a slice made of flour wot's already bin chewed an' digested by weevils? Thet's w'ere it is. The bloomin' stuff 'as bin analysed by chemists an' they say it ain't fit for 'uman consumption. *You* ups an' as good as ses they're liars. I don't mind tellin' you, mister, thet I believe them chemists afore I believe *you*. I'm givin' you a clean shave. The least you can do is to give me clean flour in return. . . . Jest think about it. Goo' day, my lord.

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(a) Junior of six ledger clerks.
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(a) A Commissioned Officer in H.M. Army. I had no business experience and would have had no profession but for the School's training.
(b) Professional Public Accountant.
(c) Estimate £400 increase.

3.
(a) Junior Clerk to firm of Accountants.
(b) Assistant Accountant.
(c) 800 per cent. increase.

4.
(a) General Clerk.
(b) Assistant Accountant.
(c) 200 per cent. increase.

5.
(a) Clerk.
(b) General Manager to a Manufacturing Company.
(c) I have now more than ten times the salary I had when I first enrolled.

6.
(a) Routine.
(b) Executive.
(c) £240 increase.

7.
(a) Book-keeper.
(b) Chief Accountant.
(c) 200 per cent. increase.

Above are actual copies of some of the answers made out on the "Questionnaires" returned by our Students. The originals have been examined by David Paterson, Chartered Accountant, 138, Bath Street, Glasgow, who certifies that these copies are genuine.

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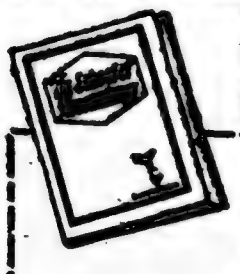

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MR. B. J. BARNARD, Welling, Kent, writes: "I think I ought to tell you how much I value 'The Amateur Mechanic.' It has proved of great assistance in a variety of jobs, and especially as to the article on WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY. I constructed an instrument entirely according to instructions, and was rewarded with success on the first trial. Sunday last was for me a red-letter day, as I succeeded, with the same instrument, in picking up the telephonic message from London to Geneva at 9.40 a.m. Considering that my aerial is only 42 inches long and 18 inches high, I think these are grounds for self-congratulation."

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By THE ED

LAST week I stated that I did not propose to take any active part in the Woolwich election—although deploring that Labour, which undoubtedly has the first right to the seat, had not secured a better candidate than Mr. Ramsay Macdonald. At the time of writing, however, I was not aware that Captain Robert Gee was coming forward. His appearance on the scene has revolutionised the situation—and the war workers of Woolwich and other patriotic citizens will now have no excuse for sending to the House of Commons a man whose war record will stand for all time as a blasphemy on the fair fame of Britain. I have been looking up once more his record. It makes sickening reading—and I feel certain that when it is again exposed to the light of day every decent elector in Woolwich will shun the man. I have no intention of indulging in any purely personal abuse. I deal with Mr. Macdonald solely in his capacity as a politician and Labour leader, and my charges against him will be published in ample time to afford him an opportunity of refuting them.

Damning Evidence.

Upon my word, with Ramsay Macdonald's dossier before me, I marvel that he should have had the temerity, of all places in the world, to go to Woolwich—whose Arsenal was one of our greatest mainstays during our fight for national existence. He must, indeed, imagine that the memories of men and women are short—or is it that he lives in a world of dreams and is quite out of touch with the real life of the nation? In this connection, I think the *National News* was right on Sunday when it said, "The fact is, his head was turned by the flattery and tomfoolery of those constant conferences with international 'comrades' upon which Mr. Renwick, M.P.—in one of the most effective speeches made during the Debate on the Address—poured such biting scorn." However, he is now seeking the votes of the Woolwich electors, and I want them to know how far he helped them during the terrible days of war, and how far the nation could rely upon his assistance if trouble once more came. Would he again insult the fighting man and laud to the skies our enemies? Now, my first charge against him is that, immersed in his economic, Fabian and other "isms," he allowed himself to be fooled and hoodwinked by Germany during the years she was preparing her onslaught upon civilization. Whilst I and others were doing our best to warn the nation of what was coming, Mr. Macdonald, writing to the *Evening Standard*, said, "It is people who want titles who are telling you that Germany is aiming to blow up London with a fleet of airships." How do those words sound in your ears to-day, good people of Woolwich? Doubtless some of you lost dear friends or relatives in those murder raids from the skies.

Damping Patriotism.

However, let me continue. Right down to the very outbreak of the war Mr. Macdonald remained in the deepest ignorance of the situation. In 1914—the very year in which the war commenced—speaking in the House of Commons, he said, "We shall oppose in every possible way the proposed increases in the Naval Budget"—whilst five days after Britain had entered the conflict he actually wrote to the *Daily Citizen*, "There is no one who admires Germany more than I do. Let us keep our hearts so tender to them that afterwards they and we can meet together and think hand in hand." There is just the kind of piffle to which I refer. We are to *think* hand in hand with the Huns! Mr. Macdonald is essentially a thinker—which is an easy occupation and does not involve much risk. But to quote him again. On the very day that we joined France after hearing the evidence of Germany's intentions towards both her and ourselves, he stood up in the House of Commons and said, "The right honourable gentleman has not persuaded me that the country is in danger. He has not persuaded my honourable friends who co-operate with me that it is, and I am perfectly certain he will not persuade a large section of the country." And all the time Germany was planning to get to the French coast with a view to bombarding Dover! A few days later Mr. Macdonald resigned his chairmanship of the Labour Party as a protest against the first hundred million pounds Vote of Credit for the purposes of the war; and a few days later still he published, through the I.L.P., his infamous manifesto to the Germans—followed shortly afterwards by this scandalous message to the enemy:—

> *Across the roar of guns we send sympathy and greeting to the German Socialists. They have laboured unceasingly to promote good relations with Britain. They are no enemies of ours, but faithful friends.*

And this is how he described the motives of Britain in entering the war: "England has practically declared war on Germany. We shall find that the only reason from beginning to end is that our Foreign Office is anti-German, and that the Admiralty was anxious to seize any opportunity of using the Navy in battle practice." Any comment upon these wicked utterances would be absolutely superfluous. But we will continue. Still dealing with the origin of the war, I find Mr. Macdonald, in the *Labour Leader* of August 13th, 1914, saying, "Sir Edward Grey worked deliberately to involve us in war"—whilst about the same time, in the *Leicester Pioneer*, he told us that "Never did we arm our people and ask men to give us their lives for less good cause than this." But now listen to this—it is a resolution passed under Mr. Macdonald's auspices by the I.L.P. on January 2nd, 1915, when we were in the very throes of the war's agony: "All members of the I.L.P. are requested not to assist the Government in recruiting campaigns. The decision of the Parliamentary Labour Party to co-operate with the Government to encourage enlisting constitutes a grave betrayal of the principles of the Party and an outrage upon its traditions and hopes." What would have become of those "tradi-

JOHNNY BULL (*to Ramsay Macdonald*): "And w

PARLIAMENT ?

t Questions—My Appeal to the Electors.

EDITOR.

tions and hopes" if our splendid lads had not flown to the Colours? And yet here was this man callously discouraging military service, although at the same time availing himself of the security it afforded him. How callous he really was may be gathered from this extract from the *Labour Leader* of November 11th, 1915: "If the Government says it cannot win the war without conscription, it cannot win the war at all. Even if the Government says conscription is necessary, I am not going to accept it." Luckily for him, he was over military age. And his sympathies were always with the enemy. In a letter written by him to a Swiss friend, early in 1915, he said, "In my opinion the use which is being made of the stories of atrocities by the enemy is in the highest degree reprehensible." Again, speaking in the House of Commons in June, 1916, I find Mr. Macdonald saying, "Any fool can say I depress recruiting. I know it; I admit it"—and then cynically making this further admission, "If the police came to me I could give them something like 500 or 600 books that are seditious." Can you wonder that one of the leading German papers wrote, "We have strong friends in England who, together with the Peace Party, will see to it that Germany reaps some reward for the blood and treasure she has spent," and, further, that "In proportion as England is denuded of soldiers for foreign service, the anti-war agitation carried on by Ramsay Macdonald grows more formidable"?

Questions for Hecklers.

I hope that, with these quotations before them, electors of Woolwich will avail themselves of their right at Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's public meetings to put questions to him—and insist upon plain and straightforward answers. Let me suggest a few inquiries which might be advantageously administered:—

Did you write to the "Evening Standard" saying that "It is people who want titles who are telling you that Germany is aiming to blow up London with a fleet of air-ships"; and, if so, don't you know that Lord Roberts was one of the persons who so warned the country?

Did you in 1914—the year in which the war broke out—oppose any increase in the British navy?

Did you ever say "There is no one who admires Germany more than I do. Let us keep our hearts so tender to them that they and we can meet together and think hand in hand"?

Do you still wish the British people to keep their hearts tender towards the Germans?

Do you still say Germany never meant any mischief against Britain, and that it was a mistake for us to have entered into the war?

Did you send a message, "across the roar of guns," of "sympathy and greeting to the German Socialists," adding that "they are no enemies of ours, but faithful friends"?

And are you aware that the German Socialists strongly supported the German Government in its war policy?

Did you ever say that the only object of Britain going to war was that the Admiralty "was anxious to seize any opportunity of using the Navy in battle practice"?

Did you use every means in your power to discourage recruiting, and were you in any way responsible for a resolution of the I.L.P. calling upon its members "not to assist the Government in recruiting campaigns"?

Are you now in favour of making Germany pay to the uttermost farthing the cost and damage of the war?

Will you support measures to compel Holland to hand over the Kaiser for trial?

I think the above will do to go on with, and from my correspondence I gather that there will be no lack of Woolwich voters prepared to catechise this extraordinary candidate. And here I would beg them not to be misled by sentimental messages purporting to come from Mr. Crooks. I am quite certain that if my dear old friend were in a perfect state of health his sympathies would go out to gallant Captain Gee—who, from humble origin like his own, has by dint of pluck and character won honour and distinction. I am, at any rate, in a position to say that at least *some* members of Mr. Crooks' family are earnestly hoping that Mr. Macdonald will never be allowed to step into the late Member's shoes—whilst many women electors have urged me to do my utmost to save them from the perils of the Red Flag which Mr. Macdonald carries aloft. And I was talking the other day to General Townshend, who gave me an excellent account of Captain Gee's military record when under his command, and I am delighted to know that the gallant defender of Kut is coming down to Woolwich to give a hand—as I myself intend to do.

My Appeal to the Electors.

Such is the man who dares to come to Woolwich—to take the place of as clean and pure a patriot as ever lived. Dear old Crooks—I can see him now, with tears of joy in his eyes, joining in the National Anthem on the day when Mr. Lloyd George came to the House after the signing of Peace! What would Ramsay Macdonald have been doing had he been there? I will tell you. He would have been sitting silent and sullen; and if there had been any tears in *his* eyes, they would have been tears of pity for his Hun brethren! No, my Woolwich friends, he is not the man for you. Believe me, we are a long way from being out of the wood—and we want no friends of Germany in the House at present. Indeed, the election of this pestiferous pacifist would be a direct incentive to the German delegates—when they come over here to discuss the question of Indemnities—to resist our demands and endeavour to shuffle out of the liability—leaving all the burden of the war on the shoulders of the men and women of this country. "Vote for Macdonald and Close the Arsenal"; "Vote for Macdonald and Let Germany Off"; "Vote for Macdonald and Insult the Dead"—these are the correct posters. Men and women—*don't do it!*

...did *YOU* do in the Great War, daddy?"

The PEOPLE'S PULPIT

The readers of "JOHN BULL" discuss matters of Public Interest.

In giving publicity on this page to views of correspondents, preference will be accorded to brief letters or postcards bearing name and address for publication.

All communications must be marked "P.P." in left-hand corner.

Letters and postcards for this page must relate to public, as distinguished from personal, topics.

For short acknowledgments of other letters—selected from our general mail—see "Letter Bag," pages 18 and 19.

The Insolence of Germany.

The sublime cheek of Germany has become a by-word, but she surely excels herself when she talks of "submitting counter-proposals" to our Reparation Bill. It is up to us to let Germany know that our Bill is not put forward as a *proposal*, but as a *command*. Did Germany allow France to "submit counter-proposals" after the Franco-Prussian war of 1870? I think not!—M. ROSSITTER, East Bank, N.16.

(We've another word than "sublime" for Hun insolence.)

Prison or Work—Preference.

I know of two "out-of-work" householders having to go to prison in default of ability to pay rates. Wouldn't it be better if, instead of being kept at the country's expense, they should be given preference on local repair work to give them a chance to pay? This would be a great saving and could easily be put in operation by Borough Councils.—C. CARNEY, Truro Street, Kentish Town, London, N.W.5.

(Imprisonment for debt is a monstrous anachronism.)

The "Staff of Life."

With the steadily declining cost of wheat and flour, it is surely a fit opportunity for the Bakers' Association to make a substantial reduction in the price of bread to the consumer. The present average price (1s. 3½d. per 4 lb. loaf) is a serious matter to all classes, but especially hits the poor with large and growing families.—T. GARDNER, West Hill, St. Leonard's, Sussex.

(Apparently the only way to bring down the price of bread to an honest level is to say "Not to-day, baker.")

Registered Insurance Agents.

It might be as well if we copied the U.S.A. in the registration of Insurance Agents. We who live by insurance have our bread literally taken from our mouths by the shopkeepers—both large and small—who, by holding an agency, insure their effects, and draw commission thereon. One does not go to a furniture dealer for bread, so why, for instance, go to a jeweller for insurance?—H. G. NOBLE, Nicholson Road, Addiscombe.

(We doubt whether the registration of insurance agents would remedy this grievance.)

Five Guineas is paid to the writer of the most interesting letter. That amount has been sent to Mr. Spice.

The Tobacco Ramp.

It would appear that tobacco, "the poor man's luxury," whilst contributing largely to the revenue, is also filling the coffers of the "Combine," judging from the recently published statements of its profits during the last 12 months. Why should these millions of profits be allowed to be made from a commodity which, though not considered a "necessity," is one for which the working man pays the "lion's share."—ARTHUR S. DEAVILLE, Milehouse Lane, Newcastle, Staffs.

(We are all aware of the tobacco ramp—yet most of us continue to smoke.)

Precept—and Practice.

Mr. Lloyd George in his speech at Birmingham said: "The seller has bought at high prices and does not want to sell below it. This sort of thing stops business, and unless stocks are somehow liquidated it will be difficult to start afresh." Quite true—but, as Prime Minister, why has he not seen that the Government set the example? They hold large stocks bought at high prices, and have decontrolled some of the goods, but not the prices. Let them cut *their* losses and make Germany pay for them, then we can all start afresh.—C. SPICE, West View Terrace, Caversham.

Infants' School Hours.

Many mothers will agree that 9 o'clock school is too early for the "Infants." Delicate little mites, just turned five years, are taken out of their warm beds, given a hurried breakfast and turned out into the fog, rain and cold shortly after 8.30 so that they can get to school and be in their places by 9 o'clock. Why not 10 o'clock for infants? They would then have two hours until 12 o'clock, quite long enough for little five-year-old brains. There are many grown-ups who do not start their business until after 9 o'clock.—MRS. ELPHICK, Pellerin Road, Stoke Newington, N.16.

(Ten o'clock is quite early enough for five-year-old infants to be at school—more especially during winter.)

Comfort for Race-goers.

Since the war there has been a great boom in racing, and Racecourse Companies have made big profits. Some of these should now be spent to improve the lot of the two-shilling patrons, usually the most numerous. Sheds could be erected, on most courses, with a little seating accommodation for the ladies, to protect from inclement weather without obstructing the view. Also, the primitive public conveniences might be replaced with respectable permanent buildings, thereby encouraging decency and lessoning the danger to health.—H. V. DUNN, William St. North, Birmingham.

(Alas! those who make big profits are often the last to study the public who provide them.)

Evening Medical Boards.

Ex-Service men receiving pensions are so often troubled by Medical Boards (reviewing their pensions or considering their treatment), that many have to face a lot of grumbling from their employers when they ask time off to attend. Could not these Boards be held in the evenings, where possible? This would also eliminate the question of paying compensation for loss of wages, thus effecting a considerable saving of public money.—JOHN G. MIDDLETON, Nelson Street, Carlisle.

(Employers have no right to grumble when their ex-Service employees are called away from their work to attend Medical Boards. Moreover, a little consideration is due to the doctors.)

What Bolshevism Meant.

The agents of Lenin and Trotsky in Britain to-day are spreading, especially among the unemployed, tales of freedom and prosperity to be gained under Bolshevic rule. Here are a few of these "benefits" derived in Russia during the first half of 1918, as given in a Petrograd newspaper. "(1) 525 factories and mills closed down, and 300,000 people thrown out of work; (2) 83 banks plundered, and 113 wine and spirit warehouses looted and burned; (3) 197 newspapers were suppressed; (4) fines were levied on 143 towns, and over 900,000,000 roubles (nominally £90,000,000) paid in fines; (5) 214 farms burnt and 27 railway bridges destroyed." *Verb. sap.!*—CHARLES E. EVERETT, Buckland Street, N.1.

(We don't fancy Bolshevistic propaganda is cutting much ice in England just now. The British workman has found the Bolshie out!)

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

With his fierce firebrand Bromley tries
To set the rails afire,
But Thomas—who is sometimes wise—
Just frustrates B's desire.

The scales of Justice, held by trade,
Disclose a balance ill—
Miners' their promises evade
And claim high wages still.

The poor tax-payer's prayer for ease
The Chancellor ignores;
But when *demands* take place of *pleas*
We then shall see who scores!

Whate'er the public may demand
The Premier will supply,
Excepting one thing only, and
That is Economy!

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18/- per Line. (Minimum 6 lines).

BEST AND CHEAPEST wholesale warehouse for beginners. Remnants, Drapery, Ready-mades. Travellers' Samples. Send for catalogue.—Cochrane's Warehouse, 2, Victoria Bridge, Manchester.

GOOD SPARE-TIME AGENCY.—Applications invited from respectable working men in regular employment to supply Boots, Suits, Drapery, Watches and Jewellery for cash or credit. Liberal supply of samples. Commission highest paid.—Apply, Freemin, Contractors, H.M. Government, Lavender Hill, London.

"A SURE LIVING" Selling Ready-mades and General Drapery. Quick sale, big profits. No experience required. Sample Parcels from 10/6. Sales from £2. Satisfaction guaranteed. Repeat Orders arriving daily. Price List and "Beginners' Guide" Free.—B. Palatine Warehouse, 632, Moseley Street, Manchester.

SUITS, Overcoats, turned successfully. Descriptive booklet and price list, write the Invisible Repair Co., Dept. J.B., St. Martin's Court, Ludgate Hill, E.C.4. Established 1906.

£5 to £10 per week can be easily earned for a small outlay of 20/-; no previous experience necessary.—Write for particulars to H. Lovaine (Dept. J.B.), 143, Houndsditch, London.

FREE!—Write for Catalogue (How to Commence in Business with £2).—E. Marks, 154-155, Houndsditch, E.1. Cheapest Wholesale House.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.—Unskilled men and skilled tradesmen for many trades required, including clerks, hospital orderlies, storekeepers, etc. Ages 18 to 38 ex-Service men and 18 to 28 civilians. Pay commences at rates between 3/- and 5/6 per day, according to trade. Marriage allowance paid to married men of 26 years and over with allowance for children.—Call or write, Inspector of Recruiting, 4, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

£2 WILL commence you in business offering great scope. £5-£10 can be earned weekly.—Write for particulars, H. Marks, 51-52, Houndsditch, London, E.1. Cheapest wholesale warehouse for Drapery, Boots, and Clothing.

LEARN to write advertisements and earn from £5 to £10 weekly upwards, both sexes.—Write, Secretary, Dept. J.B., Dixon Institute of Advertising, 195, Oxford Street, London.

BLOUSES.—Parcels from £2. Wholesale List and Advice to Beginners. 2d. stamp.—S. & J. Ireland, Ld., Dept. J, 89a, Market St., Manchester.

HARRIS TWEEDS.—Genuine all-wool hand-woven Harris Tweed, direct from Weaver to Wearer. Prices now reduced to 8/6 per yard. Also 54 in. costume and suit materials at 6/-, 6/8, and 10/- per yard. Most of these reduced from 14/6. Special line Blankets, reduced to 21/-.—A. Driver, Department 54, Inverness.

5,000 OFFICERS' Field Boots, Laced to knee, 45/-, new; 5,000 prs. Officers' Brogue shoes, special value, 21/-; (Tan); 5,000 Tan Boots (very smart), 21/-; 5,000 prs. Naval Boots (Black), 21/-; 1,000 Government Flannel Shirts, new, 10/6; 10,000 Mechanics' Blue Overall Suits (new), 5/6; 1,000 Officers' Dark Fawn Trench Coats, waterproof shell lining (special value), 55/-; 1,500 Trench Coats, waterproof lined rubber, 30/-; Naval Oily Coats (Black), 21/-; Government Rubber Thigh Boots (for Waders) (new), 17/6; 1,000 Tweed Overcoats, lightweight (new), smart, 21/-. All goods post paid. Approval; cash refunded. Lists free.—Army Stores, Regent Road, Gt. Yarmouth.

"BELLROCK" OILSKINS "Weather the Storm." Direct from Manufacturer to Wearer. Catalogue Free.—Andrew Davie, Ltd., Hilltown Oilskin Factory, Dundee.

ARTISTIC RUSTIC GARDEN ARCHES, 57- each. Illustrated Catalogue post free. E. J. Preece, 264, Caerleon Road, Newport, Mon.

WHY spend evenings mending, instead of playing with the children? With Mend-a-Tear and a hot iron, any tear vanishes in about two minutes—it is far better than stitches.—Leicester Rubber Co., Ltd., 83, Granby Mills, Leicester.

TEMPORARY SLUMP IN GALVANISED WIRE NETTING.—Seize the opportunity and buy while the markets are down. Send your specification for special quotations and lists.—Dept. J.B., Wallace King, Ltd., Berwick.

NEW Spring Suitings at to-day's reduced prices. Any length cut. Patts. free. The Worsted Manufacturing Co. (Dept. 10), 81, Exchange, Huddersfield.

BEGINNERS' OPPORTUNITY. — Blouses, Knitted Goods, etc., direct from makers, in small quantities.—Lists, Stamp, Taylor and Walker, 3, Lister Gate, Nottingham.

LEARN Dutton's 24-hour Shorthand. Secure speed of 150 words per minute, 1st lesson free. —Dutton's College (J), Skegness.

ARE YOU LONELY?—Do you want friends? If so, send 2d. for "THE LINK" (not matrimonial).—LINK, 2, Wine Office Court, E.C.

JUMPER WOOL.—Beautiful quality, 20 lovely shades, 10/- per lb. Send for shade card.—Caledonia Hosiery Co. (Dept. J.B.), Bradford.

SEED! Seed! Pedigree Strains, Reasonable prices, Govt. Germination guaranteed. Scotch Seed Potatoes, Shallots, 14 lb. 5/3, delivered. Onion sets 1/6 lb., Rams, 17- lb. Catlg. free.—Ellison's, 25, West Bromwich, Estabd. 1890. Agents wanted.

EXPANDED metal, 30,000 sheets in stock; useful for Partitions, Fencing, Fowl Pens, Tool Houses, Garden Sheds, etc.; full particulars and prices on application to The Builders & General Traders Co., 83, Colmore Row, Birmingham.

REAL HARRIS and Lewis Homespuns. Direct from makers; best quality only, patterns free.—Harris Tweed Depot, James Street, Stornoway.

GREGG SHORTHAND, THE GREAT ANGLO-AMERICAN SYSTEM.—Simple, legible, rapid. Booklet FREE.—The Gregg Publishing Co. (Dept. J.), 7, Garrick Street, London, W.C.2.

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SUITS AND OVERCOATS TURNED equal to new. Send garments for estimate. Price list. Write L. Silk and Co. (J.B.), 54, City Road, E.C.1. WE COLLECT. 'Phone Central 1812.

SHABBY, out-of-shape Suits, etc., given new lease of life by our perfected "Turning" Process. Booklet free.—City Repair Co., 280, High Holborn (D.B.), London.

GENUINE SCOTCH HOMESPUNS below cost price. Bargain, 30/- for 6 yds. (32 in. wide). 5 per cent. discount on all orders received before Feb. 28, 1921. Patterns free. Write Seaforth Weaving Institute, 38, Gt. Pulteney St., W.

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We stand by our offer to supply the Famous Sartor Raincoats at the undercost price of 25/6 carriage paid, until the EASTER HOLIDAYS. Orders must reach us on or before March 24.

All orders will be dispatched in strict rotation.

25/6 Carriage Paid.

We will not reduce our staff of skilled workers, and that is why we have decided to sell the whole of our present stock of SARTOR RAINCOATS at this reduced bargain price.

SARTOR RAINCOATS

are made in many Styles and Shades, for Ladies, Gents, Maids, and Youths.

Every Sartor is fully lined with a smart check material and equal in fit, style and quality to any Raincoats sold in shops at double the price.

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SEND NO MONEY before you are convinced that such high value as SARTOR value cannot be obtained elsewhere.

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Unknown Warrior Competition.

The Proprietors of

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Wish to thank all Competitors for verses submitted. It is gratifying to record that hundreds of the verses were of exceptional merit, and with many thousands received entailed careful judgment in awarding the prizes. The Company had the valuable assistance of "John Bull" in adjudging the awards.

1st PRIZE, £20 :—
Queenie Scott-Hopper, 38, The Crescent, Whitley Bay, Northumberland.

2nd PRIZE, £5 :—
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C. Rosher, Veterans' Club, Hand Court, W.C.1.
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W. J. Allen, Pearson Avenue, Upper Parkstone.
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B. S. Greene, Belmore, Lymington, Hants.
Miss B. Richardson, 68, Nightingale Lane, S.W.
E. Wynne Hickie, 8, Madeira Av., Worthing.
E. A. Medworth, 8, Thistlemoor Rd., Peterborough.
John Hulme, 84, Croston Street, Bolton, Lancs.
E. H. Paine, Chiefs, Great Bardfield, Braintree.
W. McMann, 16, Baxter Park Terrace, Dundee.
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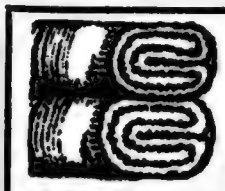

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800 pairs New BLANKETS, full size bed, very fleecy and woolly, very heavy quality, strongly whipped edges, 5-bar white.	8 for £ s. d. 3 8 0 / 4 for £ s. d. 1 12 6	Sale Price 8 for 47/6 / Sale Price 4 for 25/-

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All Chemists, 1/3 & 3/-, Send 1/5 for Sample to

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CLIFTON, BRISTOL.

NOSTROLINE

All correspondence relating to financial matters should be addressed to the City Editor.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

ADVICE TO INVESTORS.

By OUR CITY EDITOR.

Each inquiry must bear name and address and be accompanied by a Postal Order for One Shilling.

"Nae Luck Aboot the Hoose."

When the chimes of the Royal Exchange were restarted last week after an enforced silence of 6½ years, owing to the war and the air-raids, almost the first tune that greeted the ears of listeners round Throgmorton Street was: "There's nae luck aboot the Hoose." It was just as appropriate at the chimes' pathetic inquiry on the occasion of the first Zepp raid: "Oh, dear, what can the matter be?"

Continued Depression.

For there is not much luck going in the Stock Exchange—*the* House—at present. The abolition of E.P.D. has not done much to help matters. It has come too late to prevent the slump in trade, and many firms and companies will be actual sufferers because with the abolition of the duty the right to repayment also lapses if profits fall below the datum line. Rather persistent liquidation continues in several directions, and conditions generally are deadly dull.

A Bright Spot.

About the only bright spot has been the readiness with which the Newcastle and Nottingham loans have been subscribed, while the Leeds Forge issue also was eagerly taken up. There is evidently plenty of money for investment if the offer is tempting enough, but until the Government makes a really serious effort to curtail expenditure and thereby allow of a reduction in taxation it is not surprising that the public should be shy of buying securities on a falling market. Of course, the Home Railway market has been in a deplorable condition and the outlook is one of extreme gravity from the point of view of the stockholders.

More Lever Capital.

Now that the price of soap has come down it is perhaps only natural that the capital of Lever Bros. should go up. It is already 130 millions, of which about 43 millions have been issued in Preference and Ordinary shares. It is now proposed to create 10 millions of debentures, of which £4,000,000 will be issued almost immediately at 92 per cent. As the debentures will carry 7 per cent. interest the yield will be about 8 per cent., and of course the security is sound enough, but I begin to wonder where this piling up of capital is going to end.

Cook, Son and Co.

This well-known drapery house has just issued its first Report, and although it shows that the profits were lower than those of the previous year, the results are quite as good as could be expected, having regard to the slump in prices. For the twelve months they amounted to £452,000 against £489,000, and both the participating Preference and Ordinary shares receive 7 per cent., but the h ge sum of £170,000 is carried forward, and a larger distribution could have been made if it had been deemed prudent. I think the directors are right to adopt a cautious policy in the circumstances.

The Colwyn Report.

It would perhaps be a mistake to treat too seriously the Report of Lord Colwyn's Committee, on the claims for compensation by the Railway Companies when Government control comes to an end next August. The Report is futile almost to the degree of imbecility, and its only recommendation is that by sheer thievery it can reduce claims estimated at £150,000,000 to quite "an insignificant sum."

Scraps of Paper.

Very kindly it points out that the interpretation of agreements is normally a matter of law, and takes pains "to disavow in advance any intention of expressing opinions or putting forward arguments as to the strict legal position between the parties." How nice! And it follows this up by suggesting that the Acts of 1871 and 1919 should both be scrapped so as to reduce the railways' just claims to "an insignificant sum." It is pathetic to think that a body of eight men, presumed to be sane, should arrive at so inept a conclusion.

The Railways' Case.

Whether the Companies' claim for £150,000,000, or whatever the actual amount may prove to be, is excessive will have to be decided by duly-qualified experts; and while the country means, I hope, to be just, the present state of the national finances prevents it from being too generous. But the railways rendered magnificent service during the war, and suffered enormous depreciation in consequence, not only owing to exceptional wear and tear but by the neglect of necessary repairs and maintenance. The shareholders had to be content with the same dividends as in 1913, although the cash value of them has been reduced by more than half, whilst all other contractors to the Government were allowed to make enormous profits. If Lord Colwyn's Committee has its way, they are now to be driven into bankruptcy. Does that appeal to you as a square deal? I regard it as a matter of extreme importance, not only to railway shareholders but investors generally as well as the great body of the public whose honour is concerned.

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"GOLD FLAKE"
CIGARETTES
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First Prize:	1921 Model 8-h.p.	**ROVER CAR**	**£300**
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New Detachable Model
Suitable for all Cars.
Price 6/- each.

Popular Feed Model K.L.G. Plug 8.2	5/- each
The Famous F7 Model K.L.G. is a super Plug for Motor Cycles	10/6 each
K.L.G. Plugs, Standard B Models (non-detachable) suitable for general use	5/- each

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S. SMITH & SONS (M.A.) LIMITED,

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Neglect is sure to end in trouble. Take Hall's Wine now—it will very quickly build you up. It will give you new, rich blood, feeding your nerves and strengthening your whole system. Instead of being open to Disease you will enjoy—really enjoy—sturdy health.

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Cigarettes are now being made without either tobacco or cubebs. They contain fragrant and soothing medicinal herbs which smoke perfectly. This **medicated vapour** is inhaled; then exhaled through lips or nose, with real contentment.

Not only does the smoker have more pleasure, but there is a valuable remedial benefit. First, let it be known that these cigarettes are an aid in warding off influenza and colds. Second, they are purposed to give relief in throat irritations, hoarseness, **catarrh** of the head or throat, and in stopping those roaring, buzzings, and other **head noises** and in reducing **deafness** of which colds and catarrh are the cause. **Do not confuse** these with the cubeb or other similar cigarettes. No nicotine—nothing habit-forming. No nervousness. Cost no more than other kinds of cigarettes, and at the same time you have a health-benefiting, delightful smoke.

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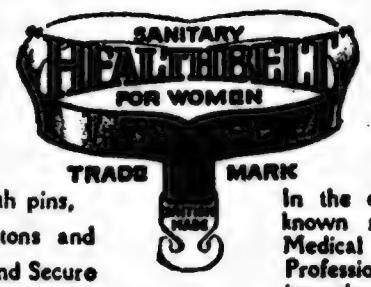
"A Great Invention for Women's Comfort"



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for descriptive booklet and name of nearest retailer.

TOMMY, JACK, AND BADGERS.

OUR PLEDGE.—"No case of hardship or injustice, no instance of beggarly treatment or mean cheese-paring, shall go unchallenged or unremedied."—*Horatio Bottomley*, 19th August, 1916.

Our Boys in Ireland:—We have your many letters. According to King's Regulations, the Orderly Officer who goes around at meal hours to ask you if you have complaints is bound to report to the C.O. If the complaints are not put forward you have a right to complain to the General Officer Commanding your district, who should look into the matter. We have on several occasions brought forward such grievances only to receive naughty letters from General Headquarters.

To the Men:—We have a letter thanking us for having obtained the release of Privates K. Orr and J. Barlow of the 1/10th Manchester Regiment, who had been sentenced to five years' penal servitude. We are now asked by a branch of the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers to obtain a free pardon for all prisoners serving sentences for minor military offences. We will do our best.

From Malta:—Here is a communication from Malta, with many signatures, concerning the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes. The show appears to be in a rotten way in many directions, and before we take particular action we should like to have a reply from the Superintendent. Will he please note?

Well Done!—The report on the work done by the Officers' Families' Fund from Aug., 1918, to July, 1920, has just been issued, and shows a fine achievement. We endorse the Committee's remark that the figures produced should satisfy the public that their confidence in the fund has not been misplaced.

Not Yet.—Some ex-Jacks are like the young man in a hurry. They want to know if a second share-out of prize money is now being made. "Not much!" Our own wonder is as to when the present share-out will be completed.

Concerning Back Pay.—Many ex-soldiers discharged or demobilised years ago are now coming to the conclusion that when they left the Army they left a few shillings behind with the Finance Department, and are demanding the money or an explanation. Owing to considerable reduction in the Pay Department, in July last a notice appeared in the Press, and was exhibited in every Post Office, announcing that no case concerning pay more than three months' old could be considered, and the authorities cannot depart from this decision.

Much Cry, Little Wool.—The Boys who were in the Jutland job have waited for quite a long time to know how much boodle they have earned, through an action that they believe to be bigger than Nelson's at Trafalgar. It is called the Jutland Battle, but should be nominated the Battle of the Horns Reef.

Your Money.—The Admiralty have now announced the Prize Bounty distribution for that great action, and we blush to tell Jack how much he is entitled to. As Whitehall tell us, the large number of officers and men engaged leaves a very small unit of distribution. The amount of the award is: Captain in Command 1st 80 on list, £8 4s. 3d.; coming down to the 13th class of common or garden bluejackets, the amount to be collected is 2s. The good old Jack who earned 2s. during the battle will have the pleasure of "blueing" it ashore in his favourite pub within ten minutes.

Our Daily "Thank You."—From S. R. Luversheulme, Munster.—"What I tried to do for 15 months was in vain. Seven days after I wrote to you, I received a cheque in full payment of my arrears of pension. Herewith please find in appreciation from me a sum on behalf of your fund."

RACING NOTES.

(All enquiries in respect of sporting matters will be dealt with in the correspondence columns of the SPORTING LIFE.*)*

Ireland's Hopes at Liverpool.

Irish owners are sending over three or four useful chasers for the National. No better proof of Ashwood's brilliance is needed than the fact that his trainer recently gave just on 4,000 guineas for him, after Mr. Percy Whitaker had been a competitor for his possession. Then there is Halston, Short Knock, and Cupid's Dart to represent other owners from the Emerald Isle.

The Lincoln Market.

The market on the Lincolnshire Handicap will have undergone considerable change between now and the day of the race. Rumour is busy to the detriment of more than one prominent candidate. Up to the present, all is well with Poltava, whom Bullock is to ride.

WEEK'S SELECTIONS.

NEWBURY—WEDNESDAY.
February Hurdle—GALROY.
Newbury Chase—TURKEY BUZZARD.
Weyhill Chase—*MAX.

NEWBURY—THURSDAY.
Spring Chase—*SIPPET CHARLIE.
Greenham Hurdle—DOUBLE BED.
Moderate Hurdle—SUNSTROKE.

LINGFIELD PARK—FRIDAY.
February Hurdle—*SOMERVILLE.
Surrey Chase—SNAE FELL.
Corinthian Chase—*SERBAN.

LINGFIELD PARK—SATURDAY.
Woldingham Hurdle—HANDSWORTH.
Trial Chase—*TURKEY BUZZARD.
Godstone Hurdle—PATLANDER.

MANCHESTER—FRIDAY.
Grand Allies Chase—EAMON BEAG.
Lancashire Trial Chase—*SOUTHAMPTON.
Paddock Hurdle—COULTHWAITE'S BEST.

MANCHESTER—SATURDAY.
Alderley Hurdle—*A SITTER.
Salford Hurdle—MILTON.

"The Greatest of These—"

(Registered under the War Charities Act as the JOHN BULL *War Sufferers' Fund.)*

Among the numerous cases we assisted during the week were the following:—

Very Hard Up!—A woman is ill in bed. She has four children and her husband is workless. The only income is a 15s. pension, and the home was very cheerless.

Is It Nothing to You?—The wife of an ex-soldier who cannot work. She has five youngsters and is about to have another.

And This:—A woman with six children of tender years. Her husband is in the infirmary, and she had pawned most of the home.

In Danger:—An out-of-work ex-soldier. The landlord had threatened to evict him, and the hire-purchase furniture people held the sword over his head. He came to us, with the customary result.

Poor "Old Soldier":—A man left his leg beyond. Now he cannot wear an artificial limb, and knocks around on crutches looking for a job, without success.

Trouble Piled on Trouble:—A woman who is the wife of an ex-Tommy has a child very ill. She kept the house by doing odd jobs, but now she cannot work on account of the youngster, and the landlord was ravening for his rent.

Pegging Along:—A poor ex-soldier hero cannot get a job. He has a suffering wife and had sold most of his home to buy food before he came to us.

SOME REFLECTIONS.

Day by day we analyse the districts from which our applications come, and at the same time we note the regions from which we receive donations—even a shilling or so. Belfast, in Ireland, is a rich district, and from there we receive many requests but few halfpence. It is the same in Liverpool and Manchester, where the rich cotton kings and other magnates live. From the four cardinal points in Scotland we have numerous requests for help, but few if any donations. We must cut our coat according to our cloth. We do our very best at once for the genuine deserving, but we do wish that the districts we mention, in which money is, would establish funds for the alleviation of distress.

Make no mistake. We know the right people who come or appeal to us. We have the means of testing every case—principally over the telephone. Every other fellow discharged from the Army who comes to London makes a bee-line to JOHN BULL Office for help, but when we 'phone to the War Office we find that most of them have been ignominiously kicked out of the service for some bad crime committed. They naturally get no assistance.

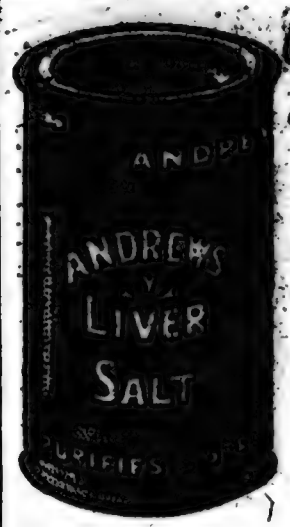
Recently we received a letter, typical of many, from a man who is located in Wales, and who asked us for aid, as he was down and out. We took our decision the moment we read his remark, "having been a Captain in the Army, of course I cannot go down the mines again." There you are. A possibly good coal miner spoiled because he rose to the giddy height of temporary Captain during the war. There is very considerable genuine distress throughout the country; but at the same time we know that there are many like this collier captain who consider that they, having done some work in the war, are entitled to be kept for their lives. We regret their mentality while passing their cases by.

Your donations, however small, are used for the help of genuine distress, and we bear the financial brunt of administration.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE FUND.

J. V. G. (Darlington), 1s.; F. G. D., 1s.; "A Mother," 5s.; W. H. W. 5s.; Anon, 1s.; C. T., 1s.; C. W. S., 6d.; A. G. F. (Portobello), 2s. 6d.; B. W. (Shirley), 6d.; E. A. (Stamford), 3s.; "Ex-Hussar," 6d.; A. R. (Birmingham), 5s.; M. F. (Perthshire), 1s.; "My Ole China," £1; "Boss of Preston Block 'A' Ltd" (per W. K.), £1 10s.; "Birmingham Parrot," 5s.; "Prize Winner," 6s.; N. S. (Ashley), 1s.; C. E. L., 2s.; W. G. P. (Bournemouth), £5 5s.; "Brownie," 2s.; L. N. (Bury), 1s.; "A Happy Christmas Party," 7s. 6d.; "Out of Work Peter Pan," 1s.; Anon (Swansea), 5s; B. K. P. (Guildford), 2s.; P. W. C. (Chiswick), 10s.; P. D. (Thornton Heath) 5s.; M. H. (Palmer's Green), £1; "Aunt Liddy" (Eastwood), 2s. 6d.; "Margaret and John," 2s.; "Contented Wife," 1s.; "Orphan," £1; "A Widow's Mite" (Kingsbridge), 2s. 6d.; "Ex-Tommy" (Ashford), 5s.; R. L. (Birmingham), 1s.; H. N. (Clandon) 2s. 6d.; W. H. (Morley), 10s.; "The Flower Shop," £1; E. H. L., 1s. 6d.; Mr. S. 2s. 2d.; L. A. S., 1s.; J. W. (Leamington Spa), £2 2s. 6d.; J. B., 1s.; A. E. C. (Beckenham), 5s.; The Acocks Green (sub-branch), N.F.D.D.S.S. (per A. C., P.), £2 10s.; O. P. (Workington), 5s.; L. T. (Castleford), 2s. 6d.; "An Old Maid's Mite" (Manchester), 2s. 6d.; Mrs. E. T. (Cardiff), £5; "An Old Sweat," 4s. 6d.; B. E. W. (Clapham), £1; C. W. B. (Chatham), 1s.; A. P., 1s.; A. S. A. (Clapham), 14s.; "Happy Though Poor," 2s.; J. E. A. (Basset Wood), £10; R. J. W. (Bournemouth), £1 1s.; T. R. T. (Norwich), 5s.; L. W. B. (Harrow), 10s.; A. W. C. (King's Lynn), 10s.; H. A., 5s; Mr. and Mrs. L., 2s.; "New Year Gift" (Birmingham), 5s.; A. C. (Homerton), 10s.; F. G. A. (Coventry), 2s. 6d.; F. G. M. (West Hendon), 1s. 6d.; "Eva," 10s.; "Sassenach," 10s.; Miss W. (Australia), 7s. 6d.; H. G. E. (Colchester), £1; G. B. (Watford), 4s.; A. E. (Royston), 1s.; E. M. S. (Bromley), 2s. 6d.; J. M. (Wood Green), 1s.; E. M. W. (Lincoln), 3s.; "In Memory of Bruce," 2s. 6d.; B. F. S. (Hawkhurst), 2s. 6d.; M. M. J., 2s.; "Matt and Elsie," £1; R. P. (Bournemouth), 1s.; I. H. (Bridlington), 2s.; Mrs. H. N. (Reading), 2s.; E. J. V. (Leeds), 1s.; "Aleph," £1; "For Ted's Sake," 2s. 6d.; Mrs. M. B. (Leyton), 1s.; F. B. W. (Upper Holloway), 1s.; F. B. (Sidcup), 10s.; F. Q., 1s. 6d.; M. W. B. (Leeds), £1; W. D. (Netherton), 5s.; Mrs. E. P. F. (Lowestoft), 2s. 6d.; "A Thankoffering," 5s.; E. D. (Lincoln), 10s.; "Thankful" (Birmingham), 1s.; E. D. (Norwich), 3s.; "Two Well-Wishers at South Norwood," 5s.; "Gratias Deo," 2s. 6d.; Mrs. L. C. (Eastbourne), £1 10s.; H. R. (Durban), £4; J. P. S. (Shepherd's Bush), 2s. 6d.; "W.," £1; B. M. W. (Kew), 5s.; E. F. (New Cross), 2s. 6d.; "Kat's Eye," 1s.; Miss N. (Gillingham), 2s. 6d.; J. C. (Nigeria), 4s.; G. S. (Maidenhead), 5s.; A. J. N. (Canada), £4; "Disabled" (Stratford), 2s. 6d.; "Two Grateful Women" (Carshalton), 10s.; F. G. (Highgate), 6d.; Mrs. C. P. (Solihull), £2; B. S. (Edinburgh), 3d.; Mrs. M. C. E. J. (India), £10; A. W. J. (Holme), 10s.; "Travancore," 10s.; J. H. (Ripponden), 5s.; B. K. (Greystones), 1s.; I. W. (Cupar), £1; Mrs. B. B. (Cowes), 5s. and set-rings; G. W. (St. Albans), 2s. 6d.; Bohemian Concert Lambeth Carlton Club (per F. T.), £15; "The James Speller Lodge, No. 3577" (per F. T.) £15 11s.

(Further acknowledgments unavoidably held over.)



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Prices are falling. Raw Materials are coming down. Packing costs are cheaper. Andrews' now costs less to make and, in fair consequence, less to buy.

The *new* Andrews' Factory, with its most modern mechanical equipment, has *lessened* "Overhead" charges and appreciably helped in the average reduction of 15% (approx.) now announced.

Andrews' function is to *cleanse internally*. It helps Nature to keep the human machine in sweet, healthy trim. Andrews' eliminates, *gently* but so insistently, all that should be eliminated.

In thousands of healthy, happy homes, Andrews' Liver Salt is the only medicine taken, or needed, the whole year round. Its timely use banishes the little ills. Mother, Father and the Children may use it, each with benefit, as soon as sullen looks and the languid mood indicate the need:—

(3c) Take, or give, a Teaspoonful in an early-morning glass of Water for 2 or 3 days running, and back will come the usual vim and cheer. Be sure, though, that you get the genuine Andrews'

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"Little itchy sores suddenly broke out on my arms and right leg," said Mr. G. Davies, of 49, Coborn Road, Bow, E., to a reporter. "I was so alarmed I went to a doctor who told me I had eczema. I persevered with his ointment and medicine and also had treatment from a Skin Hospital; but the eczema spread until my face and body were **covered with raw, burning places.** I was such an awful sight I was really ashamed to meet my friends.

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"Zam-Buk completely cured me and gave me a healthy skin again."

Mr. G. Davies, of Bow, E.

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1/3 and 3/- per box. Avoid all Substitutes.

Aborigines "Shave" with a piece of glass.

Some men "shave" with "throw-away" blades.

Other men — who know real razors — really shave with a

WILKINSON SAFETY SHAVER

It is a *real* shaver, with highest quality solid *hardened* blades—blades made by the famous makers of the highest-grade "straight" razors—Wilkinson's. The roller guard feeds the lather on to the cutting edge. The adjustable rachet allows the head of the shaver to be set at any angle

A Smooth Close Shave every time.

In neat leather case, with stropping handle and 7 solid blades, each etched with day of the week . . **30/-**

Gold-plated set . . 35/-

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EVERY HOUSEWIFE SHOULD READ THIS

If she wants to know how to render the home attractive and bright to John (or George, or Dick, or Will) after his hard day's work is over. She will meet him with a cheery word and a gay smile, because she will be no more fagged out, and utterly weary with housework, if—now this is a big IF—if she has the floors laid with CATESBYS CORK LINO. This artistic and hygienic floor-covering does away with all those long hours of sweeping and scrubbing which prove so fatiguing; and when the firelight falls on CATESBYS CORK LINO it is gay and cheerful—the bright tints recalling beautiful Summer days. John will want to stay by his own fireside; in his wife's company, the care of the day will go from him; and the housewife will bless CATESBYS CORK LINO for the home joy and comfort it brings.

DOES CORK LINO COST MUCH?

Oh, no; it is the cheapest durable floor-covering made, but send a postcard for full information. There may be more expensive ways of making home bright, but you try this "Please the Husband Way." So write now for free book of patterns, samples and prices. You can open an account on our convenient Easy Payment plan without giving reference or security, or buy at special low Cash Prices, and whichever way you buy we pay carriage

Send Coupon and see how to Get extra Home Comfort.

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"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[*The EDITOR replies to, and chats with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only should be forwarded in the first instance. For a reply by post on personal subjects, a twopenny stamped envelope must be enclosed.*

LETTERS *must be addressed to the Editor or Publishers, 93, Long Acre, W.C.2, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters.* FINANCIAL *or* LEGAL *enquiries should be addressed to the Financial or Legal Editor, and must each be accompanied by a postal order for one shilling. No fee is charged in respect of other enquiries. Full name and address should be given.*

F. S. B. (Bury St. Edmunds).—Until the railways are freed entirely from Government control, and competition begins to operate once more, they will not stop the saucy tricks of which you complain.

W. A. K. (Hammersmith).—You are not satisfied with promises of a new heaven and a new earth—you want a new examination. Sorry, but our speciality is cross-examination!

"DREAMER."—We don't like your friend with the bomb. We are afraid it might go off accidentally and spoil one of your wonderful dreams.

J. O. H. (Erith).—There is nothing new under the sun. The distribution of honours still excites scornful laughter, as it did hundreds of years ago.

R. W. W. (Nelson).—"I have come to the conclusion that the present unemployment in the country is both detrimental and unnecessary." Queer, but a similar idea occurred to us some time ago.

"A LOVER OF ANIMALS" (Ramsgate).—We are second to none in our regard for animals, but think it possible to become too sentimental on the life of the seaside donkey.

"A WORKER" (Manchester).—"Did the Allies win the war? if so, why the Hell have the British working men to pay for it?" Because, although we won the war, we lost the peace.

W. M. (Putney).—Nothing any Labour Exchange does or doesn't do can surprise us.

MRS. F. (New Quay).—"It is a pity there are not a few more like Mr. Bottomley." There are, but we haven't counted 'em.

H. S. (London).—"Sir, the stand taken by many trade unions against ex-Service men is very unjust." Your opinion is ours.

C. E. S. (Launceston).—Almost anything even remotely connected with JOHN BULL is invariably greeted with loud cheers.

"ANNIE."—Why don't we "get a knighthood"? Probably there are no more in stock.

"FAIRPLAY."—We don't think any formal memorial is necessary to "perpetuate the name and fame of Lord Fisher." The best tribute to his memory, when Ministers next appeal to the country, will be to "sack the lot."

J. L. (E. Molesey).—"A mere handful of votes places the recipient in power." Cheer up, just one more vote "against" than "for" will chuck him out again.

S. H. (Warrington).—You are unwise to think of investing in house property at the top of the boom, more especially with a commuted pension. Take our tip and you may live to bless us.

A. M. S. (Queenborough).—"Is the Naval Prize money being paid out by instalments—if so, by how many?" As many as are necessary to make up the full amount.

H. H. (Donegal).—If you put a few full stops in your letter we might find out why you don't like us putting a full stop to emigration.

W. I. D. (Hawarden).—Glad to hear that the Managers of the Queen's Ferry Council Schools passed a strong resolution deploring the absurdly inadequate punishment imposed on the man Durham, convicted of an unnatural offence against a boy.

M. D. (Gloucester).—You take life too sadly. It is written that all the days of the afflicted are evil, but he of merry heart hath a continual feast.

J. T. (Battersea).—Can't tell you "why the *Times* pape employ civil servants at the House of Commons of an evening." Possibly because they are civil.

"DRINK'S DUMMY" (Montreal, Can.).—"Montreal is only wet when it rains." It must be dry when it doesn't.

T. N. (Old Kent Road).—"I am forwarding to you a piece of bread." Include a chunk of cheese.

D. B. (Woolwich).—"The Governor thanked us for dispersing the niggers, and then apologised to them for us hitting them!" We suppose his next move was to write himself a testimonial?

B. E. U. (Kensington).—"Why are taxpayers burdened with Rates and Taxes £700 a year at 41, Queen's Gate for 'Entomological Research'?" Quite seriously, it is to find where flies go in winter-time.

W. P. (Shawbury).—"The church clock has not been on strike for some time." Now why do you want to stir up the only one that hasn't struck?

P. S. (Leeds).—We note that you want "a hundred more municipal golf courses." Can you wait a fortnight?

C. E. B. (Devonport).—"I wish to congratulate you upon your Mormonism." Thanks, but aren't you a trifle ambiguous?

E. E. (Denton).—Daresay you would "esteem it a favour" were we to publish your desire to know the whereabouts of a certain lady and gentleman. In return they might ask concerning your "whereabouts," and if they have gone to the wash.

"WIDOW" (Tilbury) had no sooner had 3d. a pound taken off her sugar than the landlord put 5d. a week on her rent. Probably somebody put 10d. a week on his rates.

B. H. (Leeds).—"Tell us mothers what we can invent instead of a future generation." Well, quite a lot who are not mothers invent excuses.

J. D. (Talywain).—"Kindly let me know . . . the greatest number of boilers on any vessel or boat attached to the British Navy." Do you wish us to include the kettles in the galley?

G. E. A. (London, E.C.).—Goodness gracious knows what the Postmaster-General is legally entitled to do in the way of breaking contracts. He almost gives one the impression that he is a law unto himself.

"LOOKER ON" (Esher) says "the Unemployment Office at Kew force their staff to work overtime till 7 p.m. four evenings a week." He thinks if this were not done work could be given to unemployed.

T. H. N. (Acton).—We must have Scotch blood in our veins, for we can't see ourselves leaving half our change at the Tube booking-offices.

A. E. L. M. (Upper Norwood).—Thanks for correcting our compositor's French. Now, with your permission, we will *fermez la porte* on the subject.

G. J. (Paddington).—"This letter is not intended for publication." Dealt with according to intent.

W. L. (Montreal).—"Your reference to unemployment in the Colonies is quite true." Of course. Like Washington, we couldn't tell a lie.

H. H. (London, W.).—We should be sorry to see the highly respected United Kingdom Commercial Travellers' Association affiliate with any society with socialistic leanings.

J. E. B. (Avelen).—The reason the advertiser ("Spare Time Agency") asks for "men in regular work" is, of course, that the "agents" may sell among fellow-workmen.

B. R. (Bognor).—"The women police are only for country cousins to gape at." The last cousin who did that was run in.

G. R. (Birmingham).—Your long disquisition on the food question duly to hand. What we have read of it has a hungry flavour.

"TRAVELLER" (Reading).—It is a pity the sanitary authorities do not keep a sharper eye on railway station waiting-rooms. The conditions at some stations are simply appalling.

H. W. K. (Hounslow).—The importation of nails and screws from the United States is no new thing. They even send us horse-shoes—to fit the nails!

A. J. McG. (Belfast).—"One day a gentleman filled with curiosity asked the warder if he might see the prisoners inside." We fancy he must have been filled with something rather stronger than "curiosity."

S. J. (Douglas).—After all, we had rather have a fool to make us merry than experience to make us sad.

E. A. L. (Sunderland).—"I have not even received a letter of thanks." Pretty rough; but cheer up, you might have got an O.B.E.

"WASSISNAME" (London, S.W.).—Don't put rude words into our mouth. We did not suggest that the commutation of pensions was a "swindle," but that in most cases it is unwise.

T. W. (Hammersmith).—In view of the dangerous and disagreeable nature of their calling, we are of the opinion that L.C.C. sewermen do not receive the consideration that is their due.

"A WEEKLY READER" (Worthing).—"I have drawn out-of-work pay at Worthing, but have never been offered a job." Have you asked for one?

EVAN EVANS (Llansadwrn).—We have read the correspondence. The Carmarthenshire County Council have undoubtedly treated you and others very scurvily in regard to small holdings. They forget they owe something to ex-Service men.

"BARMOUTH" (Woolwich).—A will is not necessarily invalidated by the fact that one of the witnesses to it is under 21.

"X-SOLDIER" (Norwich).—"They actually said that all ex-soldiers were lazy." If our soldiers *had* been lazy, those maiden ladies might have had cause to complain that the Hun troops were too energetic.

E. N. (London, W.C.).—"I want a job where there is a chance of an early rise." Try a gun-powder factory that starts work 4 a.m. That gives you two chances.

"MERCHANT JACK" (Portslade).—"These Bolshevik seamen hate Havelock Wilson, who has done so much for seamen." Base ingratitude.

W. N. L. (Stourbridge).—"The Bishop of Birmingham says that grocers' assistants are conspicuously immoral." We are inclined to think that Bishops, curates, and all congregations committed to their charge, are probably equally immoral, but perhaps not quite so conspicuously so.

A. G. (Granville Square, W.C.).—It isn't true to say that ex-Service men are "hounding women and middle-aged men to starvation." Evidently you are suffering from a touch of jaundice.

E. W. H. (Oldham).—". . . Even the teachers laughed." So some members of that profession really do possess a sense of humour.

T. P. S. (Bristol).—Your idea that we should give the £2,000 offered to footballers to the unemployed fund or to Farrow's Bank depositors is a little raw.

L. J. H. (Liverpool).—Afraid we cannot give "philatelists and mumismatists" the free run of our columns. They would both have to re-christen themselves before we could mention them sideways.

H. W. S. (Hull).—We have already given E. Dyson, the "Financier" of Paisley, a dig which has probably made him sit up and take notice.

F. J. B. (Manchester).—Regret we can be of no assistance to you in the matter of the alleged assault upon you on board ship. From our own observation, a great deal of that sort of thing happens at sea?

MISS M. I. HORAN (of The Hermitage, St. Michael's, Liverpool), winner of the £250 prize in "Bullets" Competition No. 402, informs us that she is 21, and has just finished studying. She evolved her winning "Bullet" as the result of a happy inspiration.

"PHYLLIS" (Docking).—"Mrs. Porcer, of Chicago, left £2,300 in trust for her poodle, stipulating that the animal should be provided with a daily bath, and, among other luxuries, plenty of sausages." The dog is presumably half bread.

"SAN DIEGO" (U.S.A.).—Thanks for sending us the circular in which the "American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic" lists British goods to be boycotted.

J. R. (Keighley).—Six years is a long time, certainly, but we remember Josh Billings somewhere says that courting is like strawberries and cream—wants tew be did alo, then yew git the flavor.

"HARD UP" (Tooting).—As you say, "it simply means that whoever I might get to stand surety, might as well lend the money."

"PENITENT" (Glasgow).—A Scotsman can make only one good resolution in his lifetime, and that is never to make another.

MRS. F. R. (Swansea).—If we thought Swansea would appreciate an Independent Parliamentary candidate to the extent of electing him, we might send one along; or bring him.

H. H. (Manchester).—"You remind me of the three tailors of Tooley Street." Do we look as prosperous as all that?

L. F. (Hampstead).—"Believing . . . that 'prevention is better than cure,' the Herefordshire War Pensions Committee has placed a premium on the birth of unfit children." Then either they lack the courage of their convictions, or you have made a mistake.

P. P. (Grangetown).—"Oh, Georgie, where had you been that night?" Wrong number; ring off.

LETTER BAG.—(Continued.)

MRS. L. (W. Bridgford).—It may be "possible to get one of the new houses in course of construction in London," but we don't advise you to bet on it.

P. D. (Peterborough).—"I . . . have come to the conclusion that foreign competition is absolutely necessary." Did you feel funny when that great thought struck your brain?

C. W. L. (Wolverhampton).—Like you, we strongly object to receiving unstamped letters, and shall welcome any suggestion for "strangling the bad habit in its infancy."

"JACKS" (Chelsea).—"In January, 1920, I had a registered parcel sent me from Paris." Naughty!

W. S. (Sandon) won first prize at a fancy dress ball for a suit made entirely out of copies of JOHN BULL. No doubt he looked some picture.

J. G. (Deptford).—Whether your so-called offence took place at 12.15 or 5 in the morning matters not at all. Whatever the time, your treatment at the hands of the Port of London Authority was abominable.

H. S. (Abergavenny).—"If a man placed one foot in each of two buckets, and caught hold of the handles, could he lift himself up, and if so, how high?" As high as a piece of cheese.

MRS. J. B. H. (Wymondham).—"Why don't people gather in every parish and refuse to pay the tithes?" Because they would subsequently have to gather together before the local magistrates.

G. L. F. (Hammersmith).—Your idea seems to be that nobody ought to work at all; but "If all the world were playing holidays, To sport would be as tedious as to work."

D. R. (Ilkley).—Trust him as far as you can throw a cow by its tail.

"VILLAGE JOKER" (Barry).—"Please, sir, which horse won the boat race?" The one that made the running over the course.

P. L. M. (Holloway).—"Please inform the newspaper's advert. manager there is no such thing as a 'German gentleman.'" Shall we also tell our grandmother how to suck eggs?

W. A. L. (Oxford).—The landlord who expects homeless ex-soldiers to bid against each other to rent his house, is just pure skunk, a yard wide.

"CURIOUA" (Worcester).—"The play ends with the complete destruction of Mugstown." Not quite complete. How did *you* escape?

"PROTESTER."—"The vacancy for a counter clerk at the P.O. has been filled by the wife of the Superintendent." For the sake of ex-Service men, we hope there are no flappers in the family waiting for a berth.

S. C. (Streatham).—The stipends of the clergy are paid out of Church funds *plus* voluntary contributions. They are not paid by the State.

J. B. (Alderbury).—"Please do me a favour and put a bomb under the authorities *re* old policemen's pensions." You evidently want us to give them a good blowing up.

W. S. (Willenhall).—Much as we should like you to see yourself in print, we dare not gratify your ambition and our own longings.

T. W. C. (Stanycroft).—"As an ex-soldier I wish to impress on you the scandal of profiteering in houses." Thanks for impression.

A. E. W. (Exeter).—Although, you say, the keys you found were returned to the key insurance concern in question over three months ago, they have not yet paid the promised five shillings reward. Perhaps they were only joking.

W. J. E. (Hove).—Your amazement is understandable. Notepaper 17 inches by 22½ inches should be reserved for persons claiming doles.

F. B.—We are sick and tired of warning our readers against the Universal Trading Company.

A. T. (Rock Cross).—We have often commented on the unfair incidence of policemen's pensions. There are scores of cases like yours, but that is poor consolation for you.

G. (Bradford).—"What interest is the *Daily News* run on?" The next time you are in Long Acre step inside, and we will whisper it.

J. S. (Highbury).—"Warn your readers to beware o the man with pawn-tickets as security for a loan." They are hereby warned accordingly.

"SCOTSMAN" (Dumbarton).—A Chief Constable has to have a uniform, and he is as much entitled to ask that the local authority shall pay for it as for that of a policeman.

"ENGLISH WOMAN" (Germantown, Phil., Pa., U.S.A.).—"These Americans want the trade of the whole world, but as soon as you begin to retaliate and fight them with their own weapons they squeal." Perhaps we hurt their feelings when we tap their pockets.

J. A. H. (Cheltenham).—The female who audibly remarked that "these St. Dunstan's men," in the stalls of the theatre, "ought to be in the gallery," is a snob of the first water.

T. B. (Chelmsford).—The Bishopsgate Trading Co.'s Prize Scheme is a wangle comprising 0 per cent. prizes, 100 per cent. mugs.

"JAY" (Belfast).—"Wiping out these devils would make them more careful." Yes, if they got wiped out a second time it would probably prove fatal.

R. S. (East Ham).—Ninepence a day allowed for "Lodging Money"! We suppose you squander most of it on wine and women?

E. C. (Edgbaston).—"There's an editor whose writing is graphic, But ill-doers don't think it seraphic; When a reader a statue suggested, The reader this editor soon bested, By saying it would obstruct the traffic." As a poet you have your limits.

D. R. (Margate).—If the English won't make cheap magic lanterns, you can hardly blame the big toy firms for going to Germany for them. But don't those cheap lanterns stink!

"INDIGNANT" (Burton-on-Trent).—Sorry cannot make head or tail of your dog story. Ever hear the yarn of the pup that swam the Atlantic?

K. K. (Wimbledon).—You evidently want a special supplement to JOHN BULL answering your questions. Sorry! Can't be done.

D. B. L. N. (Sunderland).—Vicar, you make us blush. JOHN BULL readers have hearts, and it is nothing more than we expected to find that our paragraph "Two Little Victims," has led to practical sympathy.

J. B. (Sutton Coldfield).—"I want something to keep me from getting mouldy and stiff-legged." All right. Stand in a cool dry corner and mark time till we tell you to stop.

K. S. (Sunderland).—We are not surprised that you have lost patience with the "Hendon Sisterhood," who appear to have more regard for our late enemy's children than for our own. Your letter was a snorter.

G. D. (Birmingham).—We can understand your looking blue when you found that the suit you had selected in electric light was a "strong purple." We are afraid you must grin and wear it.

H. M. (Bournemouth).—If everyone read JOHN BULL with the close attention to which it is entitled, Williams and Lloyd, the shoddy jewellery merchants, of 89, Cornwallis Road, London, N., would soon put up their shutters.

"READER" (Southend).—Can't say whether Mr. Jones, of Southend, will be raised to the Peerage. Worse things have happened.

I. D. (Heeley).—A general charge of 3d. a week school fees "until the rates are down" would not do. What about a poor woman with half-a-dozen chicks at 3d. per chick?

T. A. S. (Hampstead).—"Why not try your hand on a Cardigan?" Wait till we have finished our Summer Jumper.

T. Y. R. (Bristol).—"Ledger clerk wanted, 30s. to start." Having got him started, what do they pay him to continue?

G. C. G. (Bridlington).—"Enclosed prize scheme seems a catch-penny business." Not so. If you look again you will see they expect to catch at least a bob.

"HAMMERSMITH" (London).—"Dear policewoman, but wait till I catch her with my husband." Right-o!

G. W. C. (Battersea, S.W.).—Undoubtedly it is cheaper in these days to sole your own boots; likewise to re-seat your own trousers if you are handy with the needle.

"ONE HARD DONE BY" (Hornsey).—"How wicked to see young flappers wasting every penny they can get hold of." You shouldn't look if it is wicked.

E. J. (Thorpe Bay).—"Will you set some of the heads alight in this most up-to-date Borough of Southend?" But the water supply is not enough to dowse such a conflagration.

D. R. S. (Irlams o' th' Heights).—Take care. When the hand is in the dog's mouth, draw it out gently.

B. S. (Morley).—Telkamp, the Dutchman, probably has his circulars posted in Berlin for cheapness.

O. G. D. V. (Penge).—"He would prefer to appear in the pulpit dressed as the Devil." That might be interesting, but no use as a disguise.

"ERIC" (Brooklyn, N.Y.).—Extraordinary letter received. We agree with you that there is no greater religion than Truth.

"X-TOMMY" (Nottingham).—"They got £900 out of ex-soldiers' pockets for new band instruments." Perhaps people were tired of hearing them blow their own trumpets.

H. M. T.—"To settle an argument, was (a certain person) hanged or shot? and where?" (1) Hanged. (2) In the neck.

A. K. W.—"I have wanted no breakfast lately." Sure it's the bread and not the whisky overnight?

THRIFT PRIZE BOND CLUB.—C. L. (Barnes) and OTHERS.—Bonds are being despatched daily to members, but as many thousands of applications have to be dealt with, a little patience is necessary. The same remark applies to ordinary correspondence.

"THISTLE" (Perth).—We have frequently exposed fraudulent superfluous hair advertisements and quack remedies. It would be far safer for ladies with whiskers to shave—our tame Barber would oblige.

A. H. P. (Stoke Newington).—It is a shame that men in receipt of regular wages should be engaged in the evenings as music-hall attendants, to the detriment of others seeking employment. Send fuller particulars.

"A BURDENED TAXPAYER."—"The woman driver . . . takes private parties for drives in His Majesty's Mail Van." If His Majesty caught her in the act, *she* might be taken for a drive in a rather different sort of Government van.

MISS H. L. H. (Leytonstone).—"We women who have lost our dearest don't want any truck with the Hun." In those simple words you voice the sentiments not only of women but of the great bulk of the nation.

"WORTHINGTON" (Colne).—Like you we are highly inappreciative of the temperance policy of the "Liberal Party." It isn't liberal.

"AN ENGLISHMAN" (Butte, Montana).—The lying statements in your local rag, alleging "British atrocities" in Ireland, are beneath contempt. But no doubt they fan Irish-American hatred of England.

"HIGHLANDER" (Argyllshire).—Sorry we have no room for any more boys in our Boxing Camp at present.

H. E. (Muswell Hill).—The formation of Independent clubs is under consideration.

(Many replies are unavoidably held over.)

FROM A SOUTH AFRICAN READER.

(Copy.)

Marine Parade, Durban, South Africa,
20th January, 1921.

Dear Sir,—I received the "John Bull" Pen in good order, and I must declare that I am highly satisfied.

It is certainly worth *three times* the amount paid for it, and it has altogether exceeded my expectations.

Many thanks for the prompt delivery.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) R. SMYTHE.

"JOHN BULL" Pen Coupon Value 2d.

By sending this coupon with P.O. for 3/3, and 2d. stamps for postage, the holder is entitled to receive a "JOHN BULL" Gold Nibbed Fountain Pen, STANDARD MODEL. Additional Coupons up to 6 from "JOHN BULL," from this date, may be saved and used in part payment, each counting as 2d. off the price. Thus you may send 7 coupons and P.O. for 2/3 only, and 2d. stamps for postage.

DE LUXE MODEL, 1/3 Extra.

Address, Pen Dept., JOHN BULL, Long Acre, London, W.C.2. [*Feb. 26th, 1921.*

P.O.s should be made payable to "John Bull" and crossed & Co.

N.B.—State whether you prefer a Fine, Medium, or Broad Nib.

SEND FOR YOURS TO-DAY.

World's Record "Bullets" Offer!

THREE HUGE PRIZES

2nd Prize
200 GUINEAS

First Prize
1,000 GUINEAS

3rd Prize
100 GUINEAS

10 Prizes of 5 GUINEAS
10 Prizes of 3 GUINEAS
100 Prizes of 1 GUINEA

2,000 POPULAR NOVELS

200 Prizes of 5/-
1,000 Prizes of 2/6
3,000 "TARGET" PRIZES

HOW TO MAKE "BULLETS."

First choose any of the Forty examples given below. Then give **TWO, THREE,** or **FOUR** words having some bearing on the example chosen. Any **ONE** of the words selected must begin with any letter in the example chosen. The other words selected can begin with any letters in the alphabet. This example will guide you:—Example:—FAIR FIGHT. Bullet: FOR SEAT IN PARLIAMENT. Competitors may send in two BULLETS for Sixpence. If more Coupons are used, an entry fee at the rate of 6d. for each Coupon must be sent.

LIST OF EXAMPLES FOR "BULLETS" COMPETITION No. 405.

THE NEXT PREMIER	IF WE'RE WISE	SPRING CLEANING	SHIP OF STATE	IN THE WORKSHOP
BOTTOMLEY'S FOLLOWING	NO TIME TO WASTE	WHAT A FRIGHT	UNBUSINESSLIKE	SHORT STORY
PRIZE WORTH WINNING	ON THE STAGE	FOOLISH MOVE	SOMETHING NEW	ILL AT EASE
BLOWING BUBBLES	UNFAIR	BIG AND LITTLE	GETTING HOME STRAIGHT	MIXED JURY
WON'T LAST LONG	A GOOD WIFE	MARRIED BLISS	WHEN LOVE IS BLIND	UNLUCKY
IF DREAMS COME TRUE	HANDS OFF	RULE OF THREE	IN OPPOSITION	LOSING HEART
HOT BARGAINED FOR	GUILTY	A MYSTERY	MY INCOME TAX	PAYING THE INDEMNITY
PERFECT ANGEL	NOTHING ON	DAME FORTUNE	PRE-WAR PRICES	LOVELY LIAR

No.____ Closing Date, Thursday, March 10th.
Example_____
Bullet
Example_____
Bullet
(405) P.O. No._____ Signed_____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page. Address_____
With 1 Coupon, send P.O. for 6d.

☞ If unable to secure extra coupons you can write your "Bullets" on plain paper.

No.____ Closing Date, Thursday, March 10th.
Example_____
Bullet
Example_____
Bullet
(405) P.O. No._____ Signed_____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page. Address_____
With 2 Coupons, send P.O. for 1s.

Envelopes should be marked "Bullets" No. 405, "John Bull," Long Acre, London, W.C.2.

No.____ Closing Date, Thursday, March 10th.
Example_____
Bullet
Example_____
Bullet
(405) P.O. No._____ Signed_____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page. Address_____
With 3 Coupons, send P.O. for 1s. 6d.

No.____ Closing Date, Thursday, March 10th.
Example_____
Bullet
Example_____
Bullet
(405) P.O. No._____ Signed_____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page. Address_____
With 4 Coupons, send P.O. for 2s.

Result of Competition No. 403 ("Bullets" £1,000 Offer) will be published in next week's issue.

BULLETS RULES. 1. The *First Prize* will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Judges, in consultation with the Editor, is the best "Bullet" received, and the other prizes in order of merit, the test being cleverness, aptness and originality.
2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.
3. All four coupons may be used, and a postal order enclosed at the rate of 6d. for each coupon made use of, which must be made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed _____ and Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Coupons must not be mutilated.
4. All coupons arriving too late to be judged with absolute thoroughness will be duly returned.
5. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.
6. The Editor's decision on any matter of dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

SELECTION OF EXAMPLES FOR "BULLETS" COMPETITION NO. 406.

WHAT PREMIER PROMISES	WORKSHY
A REAL BARGAIN	DAME FASHION
IN THE JURY-BOX	GOING TO CHURCH
READY TO HELP	HAND OVER FIST
THERE'S MANY A SLIP	WELL SPENT
CAN'T BE IMPROVED	PERFECT LADY
MIGHT BE WORSE	FETCHING HOME
SIGN OF THE TIMES	BEYOND REPROACH
NEVER AT A LOSS	A STRUGGLE
GOING TO COUNTRY	STAGE FRIGHT

These examples can be made use of on the Coupons on this page, and must reach us on or before **THURSDAY, March 17th.** All Coupons so used **MUST** be clearly marked with the number **406** in the top left-hand corner, and envelopes containing these Coupons must be addressed "Bullets," No. 406, "John Bull," Long Acre, London, W.C.2. Such Coupons must not contain any of the Forty examples for Competition 405.

Turn to page **19**
FOR THE
"JOHN BULL" PEN
COUPON.

THE JOHN BULL
GREAT FREE
FIRE
INSURANCE
COVERING ALL RISKS BY FIRE TO HOME, LIFE & LIMB.

UNDER this most unique FREE INSURANCE OFFER anyone above the age of 10 can be insured irrespective of sex.
The premium charged by any Fire and Accident Insurance Company to secure similar benefits would certainly exceed 5s. per annum. We offer it to you absolutely free.
We have made our insurance as simple and comprehensive as possible, and shall not bother about any "Legal Representative" or "next of kin." Claims will be paid to the registered reader, who must personally sign the coupon, or to the person nominated thereon, and to no one else.
A separate coupon must be filled up in respect to each person to be insured.
This offer applies only to persons residing in, and property situated in, England, Scotland, and Wales.
The full conditions governing this scheme will be published from time to time.

WHAT WE WILL PAY:

For Damage to contents of Home by Fire up to	£200
In case of Death directly due to Fire at Registered Reader's home	£200
For the Loss of Two Limbs or Both Eyes, or One Limb and One Eye	£200
For the Loss of One Limb or One Eye	£100
Medical Fees for Injuries not proving fatal but incapacitating the injured person from following his, or her, employment, up to ..	£10
In the event of a Temporary Total Disablement up to 13 weeks..	£1 per week

ORDER FORM
TO BE RETAINED BY NEWSAGENT.

To.....Newsagent.

Please deliver "JOHN BULL" to me regularly until further notice.

Signed.....

Address.....

Feb. 26, 1921.

You must also fill in the Registration Form, which will be found next to this, and post it to JOHN BULL, Insurance Dept. 62, Long Acre, London, W.C.2, where your name and the name of your nominee will be duly registered.

REGISTRATION FORM
Which must be posted to—
JOHN BULL INSURANCE DEPT., Long Acre, W.C.2.

This is to notify that I have this day placed an order for the regular weekly supply of JOHN BULL with

.....Newsagent, of

.....

and desire you to register me as a regular subscriber under the terms of your Insurance Scheme.
In the event of my being injured or killed, or of my home or its contents being damaged, I hereby nominate to receive any payment due under this insurance, first myself, or in the event of my death:—

Name of Nominee.....

Address.....

Signature of Insured.....

(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Home Address.....

Feb. 26, 1921.

To retain qualified for the benefits, readers must continue to have "John Bull" regularly supplied to them.
A sealed 4d. stamp if an acknowledgment of receipt of Registration Form is required.

BIGGEST FOOTBALL PRIZE OFFERED!

£1,500 MUST BE WON

FOR A CORRECT OR NEAREST CORRECT FORECAST OF ONLY 14 MATCHES.

THIS COMPETITION IS EXCLUSIVE TO "JOHN BULL."

Coupons are not published in various other papers. If you want to win the £1,500 prize

YOU CAN ONLY USE COUPONS TAKEN FROM THIS PAPER.

THE sum of £1,500 will be paid to the sender of a coupon containing the correct results of the 14 matches given. If 14 correct results are not given, the £1,500 will be awarded to the sender of the most correct results, so that in any event the £1,500 **MUST BE WON.** We would advise competitors to make a careful study of football form before filling in their coupons. Scottish and Irish readers can compete. Competitors may send in as many coupons as they like.

NO ENTRANCE FEE! NO GOALS REQUIRED!

READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY.

(1) All attempts must be made on coupons taken from the issues of "JOHN BULL" announcing this Competition. Coupons must be completely filled in with ink in ordinary handwriting (typewriting or pencil will not be allowed), and in accordance with the instructions given on this page.

(2) The sum of £1,500 (fifteen hundred pounds) will be paid to the competitor sending a coupon containing the correct results of all the matches played to a finish. If no competitor succeeds in giving all the correct results, the sum of £1,500 will be paid to the competitor sending a coupon with the most correct results. In the event of a tie or ties, the prize to be won will be equally divided amongst the most successful competitors. No competitor can receive more than one share of the £1,500. Should any match not be played to a finish on the date given, or as set out on the coupon, it will be disregarded.

HOW TO FILL UP YOUR COUPONS.

If you think the "Home" Team will win, place a X in the column headed "Home"; if you think the "Away" team will win, place an X in the column headed "Away"; if you think the result will be a draw, place a X in the column headed "Draw." **Only one X must be entered for each match.** Coupons must be completely filled up in ink.

(3) Fourteen crosses in all must be marked on each coupon, one for each match. Coupons marked otherwise will be disqualified.

(4) No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any coupon. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery or receipt. No correspondence will be entered into, nor will interviews be granted.

(5) Any coupon on which an alteration of any kind has been made will be disqualified. Any coupons received later than March 12th, will be disqualified.

(6) The Editor's decision must be accepted as final and legally binding in all matters concerning this Competition, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

Cut out Coupon neatly, and address all entries as follows: Football Competition No. 20, "JOHN BULL," 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2. Write "Football" in top left-hand corner of envelope. All coupons can be enclosed in one envelope, but this must not contain entries for other Competitions.

COMPETITORS MAY SEND AS MANY COUPONS AS THEY LIKE.

"JOHN BULL" FREE FOOTBALL COUPON.

Matches to be played on Saturday, March 12th. Coupons must reach us not later than Thursday, March 10th.

Home Team		Away Team	Home	Away	Draw
Chelsea	v.	Sunderland			
Liverpool	v.	Middlesbrough			
Oldham Ath.	v.	West Bromwich A.			
Preston N. E.	v.	Manchester City			
Sheffield Un.	v.	Bolton Wanderers			
Tottenham H.	v.	Everton			
Barnsley	v.	West Ham U.			
Bristol City	v.	Birmingham			
Rotherham C.	v.	Cardiff City			
Stockport County	v.	Stoke			
Merthyr Town	v.	Southampton			
Millwall	v.	Q. P. Rangers			
Plymouth A.	v.	Luton Town			
Swindon Town	v.	Crystal Palace			

☞ **Coupons must be cut—not torn out.**

I enter "JOHN BULL" Football Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions on this page and agree to accept the Editor's decision as final and legally binding and enter on that understanding.

(20) SIGNED.....

ADDRESS .....

.....

IF YOU WORRY, READ THIS

Worry never brought any good to anybody. Still, you say, "I can't worry because I want to; it is because I can't help it"; or, "I worry because I have so much to worry about."

We all have our troubles, and worry, of course, makes matters worse. The patient generally recognises this fact without being influenced in any way by it.

The doctor who could meet this nervous condition and cure it would be the most popular man alive. He cannot do it, however, because the form of nervous exhaustion known as neurasthenia, of which worry is a characteristic symptom, must be cured to a large extent by the patient.

But as the nerves depend upon the blood for nourishment, it naturally follows that by building up and reinvigorating the blood the patient is tackling the actual root of the trouble. And that is why Dr. Williams' pink pills have proved so successful in cases of neurasthenia and nervous debility, for they supply the pure rich blood necessary to feed the nerves.

You should write to-day for the book, "The Nerves and Their Needs," and read the chapter on neurasthenia. Many people have written, "This describes my case exactly; I am trying the treatment and being benefited." A copy will be sent free if you address a post card to Post Dept., 36, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.

Dr. Williams' pink pills are a true nerve tonic, particularly suitable for nervous, neurasthenic people. Most dealers sell them, or direct from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., 36, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1. Price, 3s. 0d. per box, post free. For men and women too.—ADVT.

GRAVES
OF SHEFFIELD

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